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## COMING OUT

*Exploring  
sexuality  
at BMAG*

DECEMBER 2017 ISSUE 248

FEATURE INSIDE

# MERRY DRAG-MAS!

*and a Happy New Queer!*



**VIRAL  
FASHION  
GADGETS  
WHAT'S ON  
COMPETITIONS**

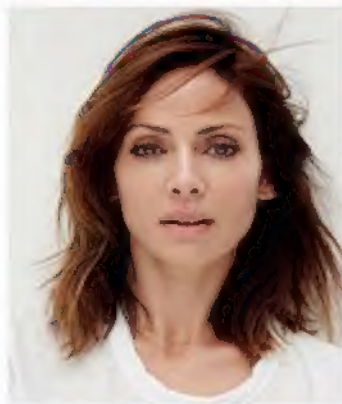




# WHAT'S ON HIGHLIGHTS

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## **NATALIE IMBRUGLIA**

MON 5 FEBRUARY 2018  
7:30PM  
TOWN HALL



## **BLAME IT ON BIANCA DEL RIO**

MON 30 JULY 2018  
8:30PM  
SYMPHONY HALL



## **BANFF MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL WORLD TOUR 2018 - EVENING SHOW**

SAT 3 MARCH 2018  
2:30PM & 7:30PM  
TOWN HALL



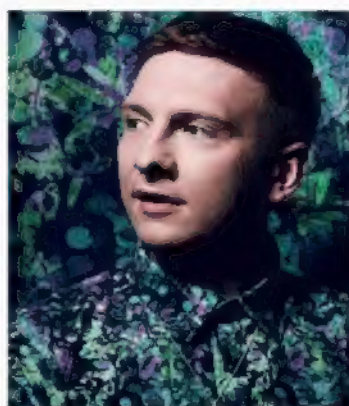
## **AN AUDIENCE WITH SIMON REEVE**

SUN 23 SEPTEMBER  
2018 7:30PM  
TOWN HALL



## **AN EVENING WITH ANT MIDDLETON**

SUN 11 MARCH 2018  
8PM  
TOWN HALL



## **JOE LYCETT: I'M ABOUT TO LOSE CONTROL AND I THINK JOE LYCETT**

MON 12 NOVEMBER  
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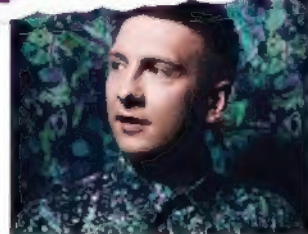
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# What's inside:



**Christmas Queens 13**  
Birmingham's favourite  
drag queens get festive



**Joe Lycett 10**  
Brummie comedian heads  
Crisis At Christmas line-up



**Coming Out 24**  
Sexuality, Gender And  
Identity at BMAG

## ALSO INSIDE:

- Have Ya Heard? 5**
- Local Life Story 8**
- 20 Years at The Fox 22**
- Xmas Gift Guide 27**
- What's On Scene 32**
- Arts & Culture 41**
- Out On The Scene 44**
- Competitions 57**
- Gadgets 59**
- Munch 61**
- Stephen Spinks Column 63**
- Cat's Corner 64**
- Steve Ball Column 65**
- Viral 66**

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Season's Greetings  
from Team Gaylife



## RuPaul star first drag queen to model lingerie

RuPaul's Drag Race season seven winner Violet Chachki has become the first drag queen to star in a major lingerie campaign.

Working in partnership with Bettie Page Lingerie, Violet has launched a line by London-based underwear brand Playful Promises.

Speaking to the Hollywood Reporter, she said: "I think the most impactful thing any gender non-conforming person can have is visibility.

"Bettie Page was a huge inspiration for my drag character. I often tell people that when I started drag, I was basically just cosplaying as her.

"This campaign is really a full-circle moment for me!"

The range is available at [bettiepagelingerie.com](http://bettiepagelingerie.com).



# Have ya heard?



## Kinky Boots set to walk into the Midlands...

Hit musical Kinky Boots is heading to the Midlands next year. Inspired by true events, the show takes its audience from a gentlemen's shoe factory in Northampton to the glamorous catwalks of Milan. Charlie Price is struggling to live up to his father's expectations and continue the family's shoe manufacturing business. With the factory's future hanging in the balance, help arrives in the unlikely but spectacular form of Lola, a fabulous performer in need of some sturdy new stilettos... Featuring music by pop icon Cyndi Lauper, the show stops off at the Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Tuesday 16 to Saturday 27 October. It then returns to the region early in 2019, running at the Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, from Monday 28 January to Saturday 9 February. For more information, visit [kinkybootsthemusical.co.uk](http://kinkybootsthemusical.co.uk)

## Can you contribute to Shrewsbury LGBT History Month?

Shrewsbury LGBT History Month organisers are currently on the lookout for events to feature in the 2018 edi-

tion of the annual celebration, which they're hoping to expand from a weekend festival to a whole month of activities and get-togethers.

Organisers are inviting people who are holding events to get in touch. Successful applicants will have their event added to the Shrewsbury LGBT History

Month calendar and featured in a hard-copy brochure being distributed in January.

If you have an idea about something you would like to do, and which you think might be an interesting addition to the 2018 programme, visit [shrewsburylgbthistory.org.uk](http://shrewsburylgbthistory.org.uk)



## Birmingham LGBT Centre to host **Christmas Day Party**



**Midlands charity Birmingham LGBT is hosting a festive party for any members of the community who find themselves at a loose end on Christmas Day.**

The event takes place at the Birmingham LGBT Centre, Holloway Circus, and comes complete with 'festive spirit' and light refreshments. Pop along and say hi between the hours of 2pm and 7pm.

For more information, contact Birmingham LGBT on 0121 643 0821.

## Birmingham charity looking to fill LGBT sexual health role

Birmingham LGBT is on the lookout for a Sexual Health Promotion Services Team Leader.

Based in central Birmingham, the successful applicant will work to help reduce the incidence of STI infection and poor sexual health within the Birmingham & Solihull LGBT community.

The full-time post is for 37 hours per week and includes evening and weekend work.

Closing date for applications is Friday 1 December at 5pm. For more information, visit [blgbt.org/vacancies](http://blgbt.org/vacancies).

## **World AIDS Day** celebration and vigil set for Birmingham



**Friday 1 December will see a number of events taking place around Birmingham city centre to mark World AIDS Day.**

A vigil will be held in the grounds of the city's St Philip's Cathedral from 7pm. This will include music and 'stories from experience' from people who want to share, as well as a chance to light a candle for those who have been lost.

The vigil will be followed by a candlelit walk at 7.30pm from the cathedral to the Bond Company, where the community will be invited to reflect on 2017 and look forward to the year ahead.

The event will feature contributions from a number of speakers, who will be talking about the significance of World AIDS Day and the need to continue raising awareness in order to tackle the stigma surrounding HIV head-on.

There will also be an opportunity for members of the community to share their personal experiences and access advice and information from professionals. Free light refreshments will be provided and red ribbons will be available, with donations collected on behalf of the National AIDS Trust.

Guest speakers are set to include Steve Taylor, Lead HIV Consultant at Heartlands Hospital.

For more information about the event, visit [wad.umbrellahealth.co.uk](http://wad.umbrellahealth.co.uk) or call 0121 633 1750.

## Birmingham LGBT to host **World AIDS Day** event



To mark the 30th anniversary of World AIDS Day, Birmingham LGBT is hosting a special evening 'to celebrate and reflect'.

Taking place on Friday 1 December from 7pm at Birmingham's Eden Bar, the event will begin with a vigil and include speakers from Positive West Midlands and Birmingham LGBT. Dr David White, a HIV doctor from Heartlands Hospital, will also contribute.

The vigil will be followed by a screening of iconic musical *RENT*.

Set at the dawn of the 1990s, the hit show focuses on a group of New Yorkers as they struggle with their careers, their love lives and the ravaging effects of the AIDS epidemic on their community...

A buffet of light refreshments will be provided on the night.



# Have ya heard?

## L Fest heads to Wales

UK's biggest lesbian festival is to leave the Midlands

**L Fest, the UK's largest lesbian festival is set to move to a venue outside of the Midlands for the first time.**

The eighth edition of the award-winning festival will be moving to the seaside location of Llandudno in North Wales.

The event has previously been held in the Midlands over several venues however bosses are embracing the move to Wales.

Cindy Edwards, the Event Director first visited Llandudno in July and over many further visits admits to falling in love with the town.

"It is perfect for our event, with the ideal event location of Bodafon Farm, but also the whole town lends itself to being a place our festival goers will visit time and time again".

L Fest takes place between Friday 13 and Monday 16 July. For more information, please visit [www.lfest.co.uk](http://www.lfest.co.uk)



**The only openly gay man in North American football has announced that he's retiring from the sport.**

Thirty-year-old Robbie Rogers, who is hanging up his boots after suffering an ankle injury, says that the only regret about his career was that he spent "11 years in the closet". He says his proudest accomplishment was "creating a more open sport."

Rogers came out after leaving Leeds United in February 2013.

## Eden seeks help for Big Gay Family Christmas



**Award-winning Birmingham gay venue Eden Bar is seeking help for its first ever Big Gay Family Christmas, taking place on Sunday 17 December.**

The event will see parents from the city's LGBT community getting along to the venue with their children, nieces or nephews to enjoy an afternoon of family entertainment.

A fundraiser for Birmingham Children's Hospital, The Big Gay Family Christmas will feature a Santa Claus, two real reindeers, Christmas movies, carols and plenty more to enjoy.

Eden Bar is looking for people who would be interested in dressing up as Santa Claus, elves and fairies. The venue is also on the lookout for a face painter, clown or children's entertainers who are willing to give their time for free. Also available on the day will be psychic readings for adults, priced at £15 per 20 minutes.

The event takes place from 4pm until 8pm. If you can help, please get in touch with Eden Bar on 0121 622 1953.



# Local Life Story

**Name:** James Wharton

**Occupation:** Health & Wellbeing Manager, Birmingham LGBT

**Place of birth:** Wrexham, North Wales

**Star sign:** Capricorn

**Age:** 30

## About James

**Where did you grow up?**

I grew up in Wrexham in North Wales.

**Single or attached?**

Single.

**What makes you happy?**

Formula One, Agatha Christie novels and chocolate.

**What makes you sad?**

Stigma, most often that attached to HIV.

**What makes you angry?**

Theresa May.

**If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?**

I went through a strange tattoo phase between the ages of 16 and 20... I have six tattoos, four of which I can't bear.

**What's been the most embarrassing thing you've done in your life?**

Where to start? My mother hesitates to answer the phone to me sometimes. She thinks, what's he bloody done now?

**Would you consider getting married in the future?**

Well, I was civilly partnered in 2010 to a nice guy called Thom. Unfortunately, our relationship ended in 2014. I think we probably would have converted had we remained together. In terms of getting married again, I don't know. The jury is out for me. Getting married was very straightforward - one piece of paper, actually. Getting divorced was painful and complicated.

## Coming Out

**When did you first know you were gay?**

I had a feeling from a very early age. I knew for certain when I was 14.

**When did you come out?**

I came out at the age of 18. I was in the army at the time. Somewhat surprisingly, it was superbly received by my fellow soldiers. I came out a year later to my family, after meeting and quickly falling in love with my ex, Thom.

**What was school like for you as a gay teenager?**

I didn't like it. I got bullied a bit - not as bad as a lot of people experience but bad enough.

**Who was the first person you told you were gay, and what was their reaction?**

Half full all the time.

**What's your favourite food?**

South Asian.

**And how about your favourite drink?**

I'm a lager drinker mostly, but fave drink? Hmm... Pornstar martini.



I was in a west London bar with my three best mates in the army: Dean, Josh and Jamie. The three of them got it out of me. Dean - who remains one of my closest friends in the world - just came right out with it and asked me if I was gay. I didn't flinch in my response - it was literally out of my mouth before I'd even realised I'd said it. Then they all told me the many, many posters on my barrack-room wall of McFly - my fave band ever - had given the game away. I've told this story to Harry Judd, who nervously grinned at me in response before being whisked away by his publicist.

**What would you say to a youngster trying to come to terms with their own sexuality?**

That they can forge their own way, their own journey. They don't have to conform, they don't have to do hook-up apps, they don't have to get swept up in what can sometimes be dark areas of our so-called community. There are no rules, and, importantly, they are not alone. Reach out, talk to people, make friends and be safe.

**Have you ever had any experiences with the opposite sex?**

Yes. When I was a teenager, I had a girlfriend called Kate.

## Your Career

**When you were younger, what did you want to be?**

## Quickfire

**Who's your favourite actor?**

Leonardo DiCaprio.

**What's your favourite book?**

The Five People You Meet In Heaven.

**Half empty or half full?**

**Madonna or Lady Gaga?**

Lady Gaga. Follows me on Twitter. Haters gonna hate.

**If you could take a selfie with one person, alive or dead, who would it be?**

Freddie. Without a doubt, Freddie. God, what we lost when he died... sad.



Either a Formula One driver or an astronaut. I still want to be the latter, as it happens.

**How was your experience of being a gay soldier?**

I was fortunate to join the army at a time when, legally, it was okay to be gay. Many people don't realise that although we're celebrating 50 years as a legitimate community - free from prosecution - there were exemptions. It took an act by the European Courts of Human Rights to bring equality to the armed forces in January 2000. I was 13 at the time. I remember watching it - by then already keen on becoming a soldier - knowing that that decision was going to change my life. I get emotional thinking about it.

**Why did you decide to leave the army?**

I did 10 years and you know what? There are only so many early mornings running up hills in the rain that you're prepared to get on with! It was a blast - I loved it, actually - but at 26 my knees started to tell me I should maybe stop being a soldier.

**Since then, you've written a book about your experiences as a gay soldier. Were you surprised by the reaction?**

Yes. And I continue to be surprised that people read it and say the most wonderful things.

**You've since published another book, *Something For The Weekend*. What inspired you to write about your experiences of the 'chemsex underworld'?**

I've always lived my life authentically, and for a period of time in my late 20s I became a chemsex addict. What I learned about me, about our community's relationship with sex and drugs, and about people who're out there

helping those of us who struggle with this issue, inspired me to pick up the pen again and write another book. To say I'm astonished by the book's reception is an understatement.

**You very recently left London and moved to the Midlands, to work for Birmingham LGBT. What's your role within the organisation?**

I'm the Health & Wellbeing Manager. I love it. I have oversight on all wellbeing engagement, and manage a superb team who deliver our various programmes. I've never been in a working environment like it, and Steph, our director, is inspirational to be around.

**Where would you like to see yourself in five years' time?**

Workwise I'd like to be five years into my current role. Away from the day job, I have a pitch going in to my publisher for a third book. My first book has been optioned for a play. And personally speaking, I'd like to think I'll have a man in my life by the time I'm 35.

**Gay Scene**

**Who's your favourite cabaret act on the scene?**

I LOVE Miss Jason.

**What have you noticed about the way the gay scene has changed over the years?**

In London it was shrinking - and that's scary. We have to ensure our spaces remain open and safe. It's worth fighting for.

**How would you change the scene?**

We have to stop using terms like 'clean' when discussing sexual health. We need to have an honest chat about drugs, and the way we as a community interact with them.



**Time Out**

**Where do you like to go on a night out?**

I'm a huge musical theatre fan - shock horror. Musicals are the way to my heart.

**What do you do to relax?**

I write. At the moment I'm keeping a blog about starting out here in Birmingham ([beginnings30.wordpress.com](http://beginnings30.wordpress.com)). I also love films.

**What do you enjoy on telly?**

Formula One. On Netflix I'm all about *The Crown* and *Designated Survivor*.

**What was the last track or album you bought or downloaded?**

I am, right now actually, listening to *Beautiful - The Carole King Musical*, as I'm off to see it tonight with my friend Ashley and his mother.

**Which one website do you spend the most time on?**

Sky News probably.

**What type of holiday do you prefer?**

I like a beach break in January and city breaks sporadically throughout the year.







## **Birmingham comedian Joe Lycett is hosting Crisis At Christmas, a charity fundraiser in aid of the homeless, at the city's Glee Club this month. He will then be returning to Brum next year with his brand new touring show. Zone caught up with him to find out what audiences can expect...**

The phrase 'bigger and better' might have been coined specifically for Joe Lycett's new touring show. Hitting the road with I'm About To Lose Control And I Think Joe Lycett (more on that punning title later), the Birmingham comedian is taking a brand new set of observations, setpieces and gags to larger venues than he's previously appeared in on his solo tours. Not that he's especially fazed by any of it.

"I certainly have some big nights planned on this tour. I said to Sarah Millican that I felt I had to write a show that was big enough for those venues and, in her infinite wisdom, she said, 'No, the show should be good enough for 100 people'. So it's intimidating in terms of the scale of it and the sense that there'll be a lot of eyes on me, but I always try and do the best possible show I can. There's no point otherwise."

Joe's comedy career started off at Manchester University (he won the Chortle Student Award in 2009). He then took several acclaimed shows to the Edinburgh Fringe and supported the likes of Jack Whitehall and the aforementioned Millican in some of the nation's enormo-domes. Given that he's played in rooms of all shapes and sizes, he's in a strong position to know exactly what works for him.

"The beauty of stand-up is that generally it does scale up, and it's about your ability to connect with an audience. I think arenas might be too big for the type of shows I want to do, but the theatres are great. I'll be using PowerPoint again, which gives the crowd something to focus on, and that can scale up as big as you like."

And so to those pun based show titles. Having brought us Some Lycett Hot in 2012 (the show for which he was nominated as best newcomer at the Edinburgh Fringe), he's since come up with If Joe Lycett Then You Should Have Put A Ring On It and That's The Way, A-Ha A-Ha, Joe Lycett. It's clear, then, that his new show's title, I'm About To Lose Control And I Think Joe Lycett, is simply the latest in a well established tradition.

"You can't go too far wrong with the Pointer Sisters," Joe insists. "James Acaster suggested that I went the whole hog and went for I'm So Joe Lycett, And I Just Joe Lycett, I'm About To Lose Control And I Think Joe Lycett. There

was another long one that was a strong contender, but then I listened to the Pointer Sisters' song and thought, 'Can I walk on feeling confident to this music?' And yes, I probably can, so let's name the whole tour after that.

"Any time I meet a musician, I request that they write a song with 'I like it' in the title. The thing I love about all this is that there are now proper discussions about the title. I'll be sitting down with my agent, who also represents Frankie Boyle and Jimmy Carr, and the main question is, 'Which Lycett-based pun shall we go for this time?'"

In terms of the actual content of his show, Joe has once more rejected the notion of a fixed theme and instead is riffing on bizarre and funny stuff that's happened to him in the last couple of years. "I'm not the sort of writer who can restrict himself to a theme, just in case nothing good comes of it. I prefer to get annoyed about stuff, and then maybe you can spot loose themes that you can tie together. This one won't necessarily be about losing control. Or if it is, it'll be by pure chance."

Famed for online spats which often become huge viral hits before making their way into his stage act (a local council and an email spammer have previously been put through the Lycett wringer), Joe has a new set of subjects about which to vent his spleen when he hits the road. These include a curious pickle he got himself into involving the head office of a financial establishment which took exception to an on-the-spot jape featuring a friend who worked in a bank's building, a security pass and a ridiculous made-up name. "It's fascinating because this bank went back through all my tweets and Instagram posts to check if I'd done something similar in the past. Whoever could've known that a massive bank would have a sense-of humour failure? So I want to make a point about banks and power and the way they mould us into what they want us to be."

Taking a broader view on the world, Joe may even be having his say on the divisive man in the White House. "I've been writing about him and trolling him a little bit, but haven't we all? It's like shouting into the void. I haven't really done much political stuff in my stand-up, but I feel that at this point, as many of us

as possible have to say, 'We're not cool with this'. Even if he's impeached and leaves, he's opened so many doors we'll never be able to close in terms of how we expect politicians to behave. People saying appalling things might not seem that appalling because it's already normalised."

Still, in moments of crisis (and the US going head-to-head with North Korea over nuclear weapons certainly has a 1960s Cuban Missile-style vibe to it), the world of comedy is always able to thrive. "It's a good time to be an artist because there's lots to talk about, so weirdly all that stuff helps. Unless things go to a complete state of emergency, there's always scope for people to hear someone talk about the state of things in an intelligent way. To be honest, though, I don't know whether I'm the person to do that. Sure, I can sit here and talk about it at length, but to actually construct something that can change people's minds is quite another thing."

So instead, Joe will be taking his own particular brand of storytelling comedy to his loyal fanbase.

"You should trust that if you find something funny, other people will too. The whole thing about building up an audience is about taking people with you who will be on the same page - but some things that I think are hilarious might die a death, so you then try to reconstruct it. There's one routine in the new show that I really care about and really hope works. It's not quite there yet in terms of working for an audience, but I believe in that routine, so I will keep developing it to make it work. But then there are others that I like but don't quite believe in enough to fight for. You have to pick your battles in writing stand-up comedy. Do you want to make that point or not? If you do, then you always find a way of doing it."

**Joe Lycett hosts Crisis At Christmas at Birmingham's Glee Club on Monday 18 December.**

**He returns to the city with his new tour next year, playing the New Alexandra Theatre May and Symphony Hall in November. Joe will also be stopping off at various other venues across the Midlands. Full details of his new tour can be found at [joelycettcomedy.co.uk](http://joelycettcomedy.co.uk)**



Birmingham LGBT's Sexual Health Services  
Team wish everyone a happy and safe  
Christmas and New Year.

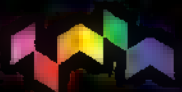


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# CHRISTMAS QUEENS!

**Tis the season to be jolly! And with that in mind, we thought we'd gather together five of Birmingham's favourite drag queens - not only for our fabulous front cover but also to find out**

**just what makes their Christmas special!**

We've got Charlotte the Harlotte, Amy LaQueefa, Miss Penny, Miss Marty and Gavina Vagina to dish the dirt on all things festive.

Just what exactly do they want from Santa's sack on Christmas Day? Who would they dine with over a plate of turkey? And where would they go for a festive break? Keep reading to find out...



# MISS PENNY

San, humberg! or He Ho Ho?

Q. Always... Ho Ho Ho I see the humberg...  
A. Yes, I do. I see the humberg...  
Q. What do you want for Christmas?

Where does your Christmas all on the Sparkle scale of one to 10?

Q. My Christmas is...  
A. Yes, it is. I see the humberg...  
Q. What's your best Christmas memory?

Q. I like to see the humberg...  
A. Yes, I do. I see the humberg...  
Q. Whose luscious lips would you like to kiss under the mistletoe?

Q. I would like to kiss...  
A. Yes, I do. I see the humberg...  
Q. What are you hoping to find under your Christmas tree this year?

Q. I hope to find...  
A. Yes, I do. I see the humberg...  
Q. What would be the worst gift anyone could give you?

Q. I would like to see...  
A. Yes, I do. I see the humberg...  
Q. Thumbs up or thumbs down to work party shags?

Q. I would like to see...  
A. Yes, I do. I see the humberg...  
Q. You can have four celebs

(past or present) at your table for Christmas lunch. Who would you choose?

Q. I would like to see...  
A. Yes, I do. I see the humberg...  
Q. Forget the dream. Who will you be spending Christmas Day with and where?

Q. I would like to see...  
A. Yes, I do. I see the humberg...  
Q. If you could release your own version of a festive hit, which would you choose?

Q. I would like to see...  
A. Yes, I do. I see the humberg...  
Q. Do you have a favourite festive film?

Q. I would like to see...  
A. Yes, I do. I see the humberg...  
Q. Do you want to gobble your turkey or take it slowly on Christmas Day?

Q. I would like to see...  
A. Yes, I do. I see the humberg...  
Q. What's your favourite festive tipple?

Q. I would like to see...  
A. Yes, I do. I see the humberg...  
Q. What would be your perfect destination for a Christmas vacation?

Q. I would like to see...  
A. Yes, I do. I see the humberg...  
Q. What would be your perfect destination for a Christmas vacation?

Q. I would like to see...  
A. Yes, I do. I see the humberg...  
Q. What would be your perfect destination for a Christmas vacation?



# CHARLOTTE THE HARLOTTE

Ван, диньдзі! ет Но Но  
Но?

0345 03465920562

**Where does your Christmas sit on the Sparkle scale of one to 10?**

9832

**What's your best Christmas memory?**

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Whose luscious  
lips would you  
like to kiss  
under the  
mistletoe?

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**What are you hoping to find under your Christmas tree this year?**

**Abstract**

**What would be the worst gift anyone could give you?**

324

Thumbs up or thumbs down to work party shag?

[illegible]

**You can have four celebs (past or present) at your table for Christmas lunch. Who would you choose?**

1. 1981-1982, 1983-1984, 1985-1986, 1987-1988, 1989-1990, 1991-1992, 1993-1994, 1995-1996, 1997-1998, 1999-2000, 2001-2002, 2003-2004, 2005-2006, 2007-2008, 2009-2010, 2011-2012, 2013-2014, 2015-2016, 2017-2018, 2019-2020, 2021-2022, 2023-2024, 2025-2026, 2027-2028, 2029-2030, 2031-2032, 2033-2034, 2035-2036, 2037-2038, 2039-2040, 2041-2042, 2043-2044, 2045-2046, 2047-2048, 2049-2050, 2051-2052, 2053-2054, 2055-2056, 2057-2058, 2059-2060, 2061-2062, 2063-2064, 2065-2066, 2067-2068, 2069-2070, 2071-2072, 2073-2074, 2075-2076, 2077-2078, 2079-2080, 2081-2082, 2083-2084, 2085-2086, 2087-2088, 2089-2090, 2091-2092, 2093-2094, 2095-2096, 2097-2098, 2099-2100, 2101-2102, 2103-2104, 2105-2106, 2107-2108, 2109-2110, 2111-2112, 2113-2114, 2115-2116, 2117-2118, 2119-2120, 2121-2122, 2123-2124, 2125-2126, 2127-2128, 2129-2130, 2131-2132, 2133-2134, 2135-2136, 2137-2138, 2139-2140, 2141-2142, 2143-2144, 2145-2146, 2147-2148, 2149-2150, 2151-2152, 2153-2154, 2155-2156, 2157-2158, 2159-2160, 2161-2162, 2163-2164, 2165-2166, 2167-2168, 2169-2170, 2171-2172, 2173-2174, 2175-2176, 2177-2178, 2179-2180, 2181-2182, 2183-2184, 2185-2186, 2187-2188, 2189-2190, 2191-2192, 2193-2194, 2195-2196, 2197-2198, 2199-2200, 2201-2202, 2203-2204, 2205-2206, 2207-2208, 2209-2210, 2211-2212, 2213-2214, 2215-2216, 2217-2218, 2219-2220, 2221-2222, 2223-2224, 2225-2226, 2227-2228, 2229-2230, 2231-2232, 2233-2234, 2235-2236, 2237-2238, 2239-2240, 2241-2242, 2243-2244, 2245-2246, 2247-2248, 2249-2250, 2251-2252, 2253-2254, 2255-2256, 2257-2258, 2259-2260, 2261-2262, 2263-2264, 2265-2266, 2267-2268, 2269-2270, 2271-2272, 2273-2274, 2275-2276, 2277-2278, 2279-2280, 2281-2282, 2283-2284, 2285-2286, 2287-2288, 2289-2290, 2291-2292, 2293-2294, 2295-2296, 2297-2298, 2299-2300, 2301-2302, 2303-2304, 2305-2306, 2307-2308, 2309-2310, 2311-2312, 2313-2314, 2315-2316, 2317-2318, 2319-2320, 2321-2322, 2323-2324, 2325-2326, 2327-2328, 2329-2330, 2331-2332, 2333-2334, 2335-2336, 2337-2338, 2339-2340, 2341-2342, 2343-2344, 2345-2346, 2347-2348, 2349-2350, 2351-2352, 2353-2354, 2355-2356, 2357-2358, 2359-2360, 2361-2362, 2363-2364, 2365-2366, 2367-2368, 2369-2370, 2371-2372, 2373-2374, 2375-2376, 2377-2378, 2379-2380, 2381-2382, 2383-2384, 2385-2386, 2387-2388, 2389-2390, 2391-2392, 2393-2394, 2395-2396, 2397-2398, 2399-2400, 2401-2402, 2403-2404, 2405-2406, 2407-2408, 2409-2410, 2411-2412, 2413-2414, 2415-2416, 2417-2418, 2419-2420, 2421-2422, 2423-2424, 2425-2426, 2427-2428, 2429-2430, 2431-2432, 2433-2434, 2435-2436, 2437-2438, 2439-2440, 2441-2442, 2443-2444, 2445-2446, 2447-2448, 2449-2450, 2451-2452, 2453-2454, 2455-2456, 2457-2458, 2459-2460, 2461-2462, 2463-2464, 2465-2466, 2467-2468, 2469-2470, 2471-2472, 2473-2474, 2475-2476, 2477-2478, 2479-2480, 2481-2482, 2483-2484, 2485-2486, 2487-2488, 2489-2490, 2491-2492, 2493-2494, 2495-2496, 2497-2498, 2499-2500, 2501-2502, 2503-2504, 2505-2506, 2507-2508, 2509-2510, 2511-2512, 2513-2514, 2515-2516, 2517-2518, 2519-2520, 2521-2522, 2523-2524, 2525-2526, 2527-2528, 2529-2530, 2531-2532, 2533-2534, 2535-2536, 2537-2538, 2539-2540, 2541-2542, 2543-2544, 2545-2546, 2547-2548, 2549-2550, 2551-2552, 2553-2554, 2555-2556, 2557-2558, 2559-2560, 2561-2562, 2563-2564, 2565-2566, 2567-2568, 2569-2570, 2571-2572, 2573-2574, 2575-2576, 2577-2578, 2579-2580, 2581-2582, 2583-2584, 2585-2586, 2587-2588, 2589-2590, 2591-2592, 2593-2594, 2595-2596, 2597-2598, 2599-2600, 2601-2602, 2603-2604, 2605-2606, 2607-2608, 2609-2610, 2611-2612, 2613-2614, 2615-2616, 2617-2618, 2619-2620, 2621-2622, 2623-2624, 2625-2626, 2627-2628, 2629-2630, 2631-2632, 2633-2634, 2635-2636, 2637-2638, 2639-2640, 2641-2642, 2643-2644, 2645-2646, 2647-2648, 2649-2650, 2651-2652, 2653-2654, 2655-2656, 2657-2658, 2659-2660, 2661-2662, 2663-2664, 2665-2666, 2667-2668, 2669-2670, 2671-2672, 2673-2674, 2675-2676, 2677-2678, 2679-2680, 2681-2682, 2683-2684, 2685-2686, 2687-2688, 2689-2690, 2691-2692, 2693-2694, 2695-2696, 2697-2698, 2699-2700, 2701-2702, 2703-2704, 2705-2706, 2707-2708, 2709-2710, 2711-2712, 2713-2714, 2715-2716, 2717-2718, 2719-2720, 2721-2722, 2723-27

[illegible]

**Forget the dream. Who will you be spending Christmas Day with, and where?**

[illegible]

**If you could release your own version of a festive hit, which would you choose?**

1991年12月28日

**Do you have a favourite  
detective film?**

91525

**Do you tend to gobble your turkey or take it slowly on Christmas Day?**

第 52 頁 共 52 頁

**What's your favorite five things?**

9125 42169, P-40.

**What would be your perfect destination for a Christmas vacation?**

《中国书画函授大学肇庆分校建校二十周年纪念册》

**What would you like to have come out of Santa's sack?**

$\frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{1}{2} m v^2 \right) = \frac{1}{2} m \frac{dv^2}{dt}$



# MISS MARTY

**Sah, humbug! or Ho Ho Ho?**

**Do Ho Ho over time**

**Where does your Christmas sit on the Sparkle scale of one to 10?**

**Do you have a favourite Christmas song?**

**What's your best Christmas memory?**

**Would you have a hot or cold Christmas?**

**Whose luscious lips would you like to kiss under the mistletoe?**

**As a Ho Ho Ho or a Humbug?**

**What are you hoping to find under your Christmas tree this year?**

**Would you be a Christmas Eve or Christmas Day person?**

**Thumbs up or thumbs down to work party abage?**

**Do you have a favourite Christmas song?**

**You can have four celebs (past or present) at your table for Christmas lunch. Who would you choose?**

**Do you have a favourite Christmas song?**

**Forget the dream. Who will you be spending Christmas Day with, and where?**

**Do you have a favourite Christmas song?**

**MISS**

**If you could release your own version of a festive hit, which would you choose?**

**I Miss Myself (Remix) - Miley Cyrus**

**Do you have a favourite festive film?**

**Home Alone**

**Do you tend to gobble your turkey or take it slowly on Christmas Day?**

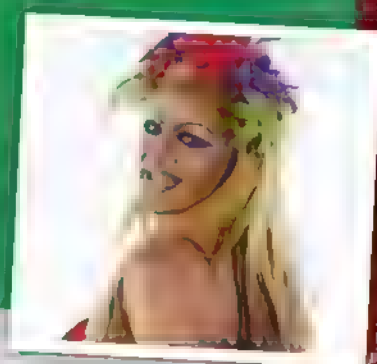
**I tend to gobble my turkey**

**What's your favourite festive tipple?**

**Hot chocolate**

**What would be your perfect destination for a Christmas vacation?**

**Anywhere with a beach**





# AMY LAQUEEFA

Sal. number! or Ho Ho  
Ho!

▲ 2010 年 10 月 1 日

Where does your Christmas sit on the Sparkle scale of one to 10?

● 1/2

## What's your best Christmas memory?

[illegible]

Whose luscious lips would you like to kiss under the mistletoe?

16.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{x} \ln \frac{1}{1-x} = 1$

**What are you hoping to find under your Christmas tree this year?**

$\frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{x}} \right) = \frac{\partial L}{\partial x}$

**What would be the worst gift anyone could give you?**

$$\text{例 7) } \int_0^1 x^2 \sqrt{1-x^2} dx = \frac{1}{3} \int_0^1 (1-x^2) \sqrt{1-x^2} dx = \frac{1}{3} \int_0^1 (1-x^2)^{3/2} dx$$

2010年12月25日  
 2010年12月25日  
 2010年12月25日  
 2010年12月25日  
 2010年12月25日

Thumbs up or  
thumbs down  
to work party  
shags?

80 2000

2013年12月25日

**You can have four celebs (past or present) at your table for Christmas lunch. Who would you choose?**

4-788 4-23-50 4-23-50 4-23-50  
3-2-50 4-23-50 4-23-50 4-23-50  
4-23-50

**Forget the dream. Who will you be spending Christmas Day with, and where?**

1. The first step is to identify the problem. In this case, the problem is that the system is not working properly.

**If you could release your own version of a festive hit, which would you choose?**

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-v^2/c^2}} \right) = \frac{v}{c^2} \frac{dv}{dt}$$

Do you have a favourite festive film?

[illegible]

**Do you tend to gobble your turkey or take it slowly on Christmas Day?**

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & i \\ -1 & i \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & i \\ -1 & i \end{pmatrix}$$

**What's your favourite festive tipple?**

[illegible]

**What would be your perfect destination for a Christmas vacation?**

2. 1. 5 (55) 48 54 56 57 58

**What would you like to have come out of Santa's sack?**

6. 1993 年 12 月 25 日, 1994 年 1 月 1 日  
 1994 年 1 月 1 日, 1994 年 1 月 1 日



# GAVINA VAGINA

**Bah, humbug! or Ho Ho Ho?**

What did you call me?! Ho Ho Ho all the way!

**Where does your Christmas sit on the Sparkle scale of one to 10?**

Like, 20!

**Whose luscious lips would you like to kiss under the mistletoe?**

Let's leave luscious lips (ooh, alliteration!) to the lesbians!

**What are you hoping to find under your Christmas tree this year?**

The floor! I'd be concerned if it wasn't there!

**What would be the worst gift anyone could give you?**

I would graciously accept any gift! Whether I sell it afterwards is another matter!

**Thumbs up or thumbs down to work party shags?**

I'm contractually obliged to say thumbs down!

**You can have four celebs (past or present) at your table for Christmas lunch. Who would you choose?**

Freddie Mercury, Oscar Wilde, Adele and Princess Diana!

**Forget the dream... Who will you be spending Christmas Day with, and where?**

My better half, Chris, and some friends at our home, feasting on my cooking!

**If you could release your own version of a festive hit, which would you choose?**

Fairytale Of New York!

**Do you have a favourite festive film?**

Several, but Hook is definitely up there!

**Do you tend to gobble your turkey or take it slowly on Christmas Day?**

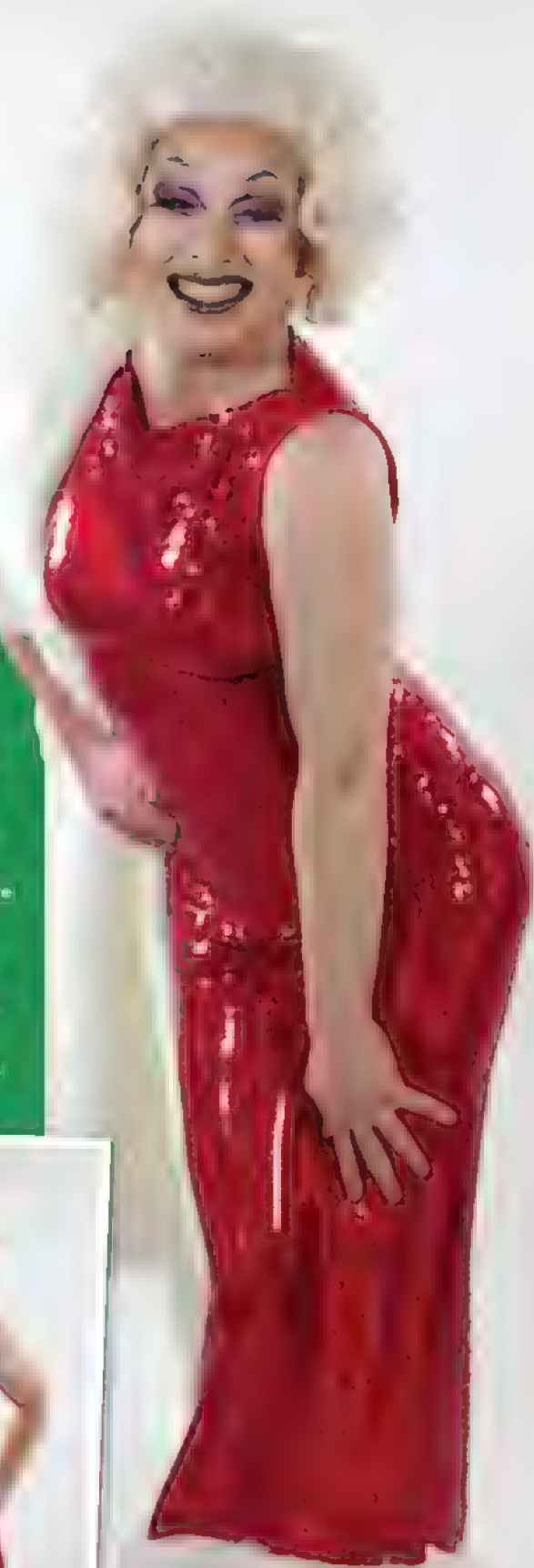
Slowly, dear! Got to enjoy the taste sensation!

**What's your favourite festive tipple?**

Champagne!

**What would be your perfect destination for a Christmas vacation?**

Honestly? My mum and dad's every time!





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Photography by THOMAS KNIGHTS

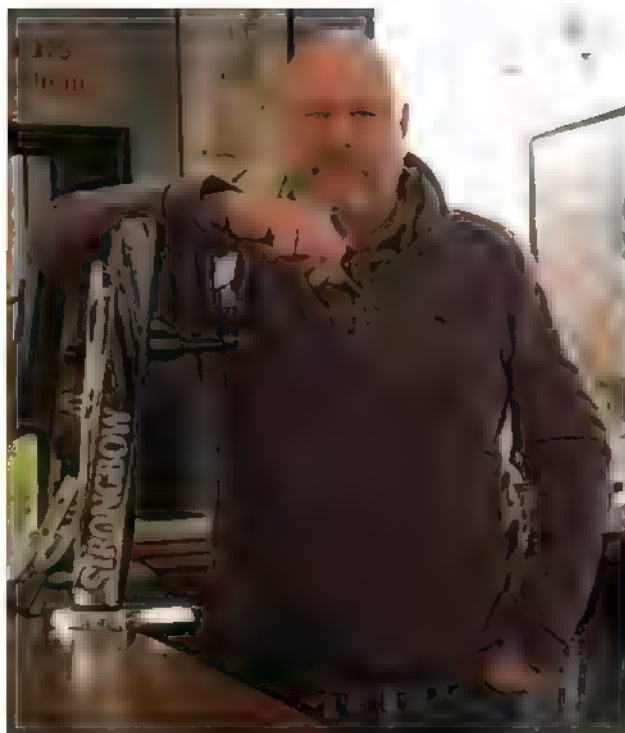


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# Andy King

## celebrates 20 years as gaffer of The Fox...



Twenty years ago on the 1st of December 1997, popular Birmingham girl's bar The Fox was taken on by Andy King. Five years earlier, Jimmy Wesley and partner Tony had opened the venue as a girl's bar to protect the 'men-only' operation at the Fountain Inn. With The Nightingale having just moved to its current location and plans for Route well underway, the scene was an ever-growing and exciting place.

By '97, Jimmy and Tony had had enough. The scene was changing at an even greater pace, with Route finally open and bars such as Angels being introduced to the city's gay district. That's when Andy and his partner at the time, Eric, came in and took over The Fox.

"One reason we took it on," recalls Andy, "was to continue to operate the venue as a girl's bar and look after the interests of The Fountain Inn as the scene's only leather bar. We were also planning to convert the upstairs rooms into a hotel, to complement the busy hotel operation at The Fountain."

Whilst continuing in his career with Harvester, Andy hired a manager called Wayne and a girl named Kath to run the pub.

"It was a lot different back then," continues Andy. "There were fights between the girls

practically every weekend. It was very cliquy and we started to get a bit of a reputation. In just the same way that you'd have the clones and the leather men, in terms of the girls you had the dykes and bull dykes - lipstick lesbians weren't even a thing at the time

"There used to be a lot of trouble, and I'd be called down every Saturday night to sort it out. One night I thought, 'Right, that's it, I'm not doing it'. So I called all the regulars together and told them they had to work at it if they wanted to keep The Fox as a girl bar. As a result, The Fox started to change for the better"

Despite splitting from his partner, Andy decided to keep The Fox and began thinking more deeply about how to create a successful girl bar. He brought in female DJs, employed only girls behind the bar, and Hilli came in as the manageress - a role she's still filling 18 years later!

It was the year 2000 and Coyote Ugly, the hit movie starring Piper Perabo and Adam Garcia, had just been released. Andy found in the film further inspiration for The Fox, encouraging customers to dance both on the bar and on the crushed velvet seating. The venue very quickly became the ultimate

place to be for gay girls on the city's LGBT scene.

Five years later, The Fox underwent its first major refurbishment. The pub was still very Victorian, with net curtains, crushed velvet booth seating and carpet. Investment from the brewery saw Andy redecorate the venue, installing wooden bench seating to give the girls somewhere to dance.

The Fox was one of the few venues that had Sky TV, making it the place to go to watch live sport and hit lesbian television series The L Word. "We were screening the show to a pub of girls who weren't able to watch it at home," Andy recalls.

Sundays were typically the venue's busiest evening. It was considered to be the safest night for the gay community as a whole to go out. But with attitudes changing, so did the scene.

"It's not only the gay scene that's changed," says Andy. "The straight scene has too. There are more opportunities to drink elsewhere now, so the venues have become quieter during the week."

With the decline in midweek trade, Andy now keeps The Fox closed on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, with the excep-



tion of a couple of Tuesday nights when the venue hosts two community events.

"We have a quiz one Tuesday a month, and we also have the Mature Men's Group that I open exclusively for. I've also had interest from students to use the venue, and I've considered starting a debate night, as it seems to be a popular thing on social media."

Over the years Andy saw a dip in his original customer base. So using ideas he'd learned in his previous career at Harvester, he introduced a 'family day'.

"A lot of our original customers have entered relationships and had children, so we started the Fox Cubs. We originally only had five Fox Cubs but now we're up to over 30 of them. They meet up at Easter, during the summer, Halloween and Christmas. It's a chance for children to come and see that they're not the only ones with two mums or two dads. It's a great way for kids to meet each other and realise they're not different. They look forward to seeing each other at each event."

Over the past five years, Andy has seen a change in the makeup of his clientele, with more and more gay men using the venue on a night out.

"The lads will come to The Fox before heading to venues such as Eden. They tell me that the appeal is that it's one of the few bars on the scene that still plays camp, cheesy music!"

Looking to the future, Andy says he can see the gay scene taking a U-turn and heading back underground.

"I can imagine certain events across the scene going back to being gay-only. It will only take that first person to launch one and the others will follow suit. I can see these events heading back underground. That's what people have been asking for, in an effort to reclaim the gay scene. I've always said there's a need for gay bars, and I can see the gay scene still being here in another 20 years. I think it's easier for two gay women to sit in a mainstream venue, hold hands and have a peck on the cheek. For lads, though, it's still not that acceptable, so there'll always be a need."

The Fox plays a big role in Birmingham Pride too, supporting the festival's Women's Arena.

"It's amazing, really. I find that girls support Pride events all across the country, so we get a great crowd turn up for it. We

**"I've always said there's a need for gay bars and I can see the gay scene still being here in another 20 years."**

change the entertainment offering at Pride each year, and we've already started booking acts for 2018's festival

"Pride has changed so much over the years, but since the charge was introduced it's be-

come a safer event, and one that The Fox is proud to be a part of."

Looking back over his 20 years at the venue, what are the highlights for Andy?

"Just being here for 20 years is an achievement in itself, considering how the trade has changed during that time, from the smoking ban and the rise of internet dating to cheap booze from the supermarkets. I think that if I didn't have a beer garden out the back for the smokers, I could've found myself shutting down years ago."

So how do you celebrate 20 years of business at one of the city's most popular venues?

Friday 1 December sees an acoustic and karaoke night for the younger crowd, while on Saturday the 2nd DJ Rita makes a welcome return for an 'old girls' reunion night. Cabaret from Glitter Lips rounds off the weekend's entertainment on Sunday the 3rd

Throughout the weekend, The Fox will be raising money for World AIDS Day and Midlands Positive.

**Andy would like to thank his manager and close friend Hilli Fletcher, as well as The Fox staff past and present and of course, Birmingham's gay scene for supporting him throughout the past 20 years.**





# COMING OUT: SEXUALITY, GENDER & IDENTITY



**To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the partial decriminalisation of homosexuality, the Arts Council and four UK galleries have collaborated to create a special exhibition called *Coming Out: Sexuality, Gender And Identity*. After debuting in Liverpool, the show is this month arriving in Birmingham. Zone spoke to its curator, Lisa Beauchamp, about what visitors can expect...**

From the first criminalisation of male homosexual acts during the reign of Henry VIII, to the passing of the 2013 Marriage Equality bill, legal and social attitudes towards homosexuality in Britain have changed dramatically over the last 500 years. As the UK celebrates 50 years since partial decriminalisation in 1967, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery (BMAG) explores the many ways in which art has been influenced by these shifting views.

Forming part of a three-year national partnership between the Arts Council Collection and four UK galleries, *Coming Out. Sexuality, Gender And Identity* comes to Birmingham fresh from its debut at Liverpool's Walker Art Gallery. But as curator Lisa Beauchamp explains, it's not simply been a case of transferring the exhibition wholesale to BMAG.

"Obviously it's going to feel very different in our Gas Hall space," she says, "but we've also reimagined the show for Birmingham audiences, adding in new loans and items from our own collection, developing an engagement programme and thinking about the narrative of the show within a regional context."

Among the pieces joining the exhibition here will be Grayson Perry's *Claire's Coming Out Dress*, which he designed and wore to mark his entry into the art world as a transvestite. On loan from Nottingham Castle, the dress will be shown alongside Perry's 1996 pot, *Who Am I?*, from BMAG's own collection, marking different stages in the artist's personal journey.

"We really want to think about the fact that sexuality and gender aren't the only issues at play here," explains Lisa. "It's also about how you express your identity as well. *Claire's Coming Out Dress* is based on the sort of dress a young girl might have worn when Grayson Perry was growing up in the

'60s, and part of it is about questioning our ideas about gendering children. Up until the 19th century, young boys would have worn frocks as well, which begs the question of when that came to be considered wrong."

Local artists also get a look in, notably with three prints by Birmingham photographer Vanley Burke, capturing scenes from a Pride demonstration called in protest against the infamous 1988 Section 28 Act.

Other work has been included to look at under-represented themes or groups, in keeping with the diversity of Birmingham's cultural make-up. Works by Charlotte Prodger, Sarah Lucas and Margaret Harrison speak to women's experiences, and Beauchamp is also mindful of the importance of BAME (black, Asian, and minority ethnic) representation. Changes have been brought about in consultation with local LGBT community groups, drawing on feedback from the Liverpool version of the exhibition.

"There are a whole range of community groups involved, but the main two I've been working with are Ageing Better, which is an LGBT group for the over-50s, and Unmuted, which is for BAME LGBT people. Over the summer we went with them on a trip to the Walker Art Gallery, because at that point we were still in the developmental stages and we really wanted to get their thoughts and feelings on the show.

"What's interesting is that there were slightly contrasting views from the people who could remember pre-1967 and those who couldn't. The Ageing Better group felt that we needed to explain the context for 1967 more fully, because you can't expect everyone to know what that is anymore. That's partly why we've included some Francis Bacon works from 1956/7."

Visitors, Lisa says, should notice a

palpable shift between the works from before and after the change in the law, moving from veiled and coded explorations of sexuality to much more explicit depictions as time went on. Fleshing out this historical context will be a brand new Gallery Trail running alongside the exhibition, taking in 25 works located throughout the museum.

"It's like I'm curating another show! But I think what's really nice is that while *Coming Out* mainly looks at 1967 onwards, the trail allows us to see how these themes have been resonant and relevant in people's lives throughout history. It will start in the Round Room with a coin showing a profile of Henry VIII, and end up with a series of contemporary art interventions in our Modern British Gallery."

Despite some differing opinions, there was nevertheless a shared sense by all involved that the overall feeling of the exhibition should be celebratory, despite the difficult subject matter it covers. To this end, work will be presented in a manner at once lively and laid-back, the Gas Hall filled with ambient sound and vibrant splashes of colour inspired by Gilbert Baker's original 1978 Pride flag.

Moreover, there'll be an exciting programme of shows and activities to enjoy throughout the run, starting with an action-packed launch developed with SHOUT Festival. Specially commissioned drag performances, workshops and rainbow crafts for kids are among the things to look forward to on opening day. Later in the run, there'll also be opportunities to take part in a Polari workshop, as well as a 'Drag & Draw' session, a twist on the gallery's popular 'Drink & Draw' series, that will see drag queens posing for sketches.

**Coming Out: Sexuality, Gender And Identity is at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery from Saturday 2 December until Sunday 15 April.**

A shirtless, muscular man with a joyful expression is holding a small, wrapped gift in his hands. He is standing against a plain white background. The gift is wrapped in red paper with a white ribbon. In the top left corner, there are colorful Christmas lights hanging from a string.

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# WHAT'S IN SANTA'S SACK?



## ◀ Elodie the Unicorn Ramen Bowl

Add a little magic to your dinner with this Elodie the Unicorn Ramen Bowl. Whether you're enjoying tonkatsu, yakisoba or just regular corn flakes, this is the bowl to eat them from. It splits into two parts, meaning you can either use it as two bowls or leave the top on to keep your food nice and steamy!

£24.99  
firebox.com

## Drag Queen Bingo ▶

So who's up for a round or several of Drag Queen Bingo? The aim of the game is simple. The person who finishes with the most Drag Queen Bingo Bucks after five rounds will be crowned Miss Bingo Queen of the Universe! However, just like with any episode of Drag Race, you've got to keep the other players from sabotaging your success.

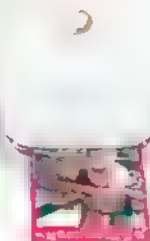
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## ◀ HP Sprocket Photo Printer

The HP Sprocket Photo Printer allows you to print photos from your smart phone as easily as you post them. Make time spent with friends more memorable with instant two x three inch snapshots of every fun filled moment.

£119.99  
store.hp.com



## ◀ Christmas Perks Mermen

If you're looking for a sexy way to spruce up your Christmas tree, then look no further than these hunky Mermen decorations. Ranging from Tom Daley lookalikes to rainbow-clad studs, these eye-catching Mermen are sure to get the conversation started. There's 32 to choose from too!

£27.95  
christmasperks.co.uk



#### Merry Fucking Christmas ▲ Wrapping Paper

What better way to express your festive cheer to your friends than with this crude, rude and gently amusing wrapping paper? Comprises four sheets and four gift tags. Merry Fucking Christmas, readers!

£8.99  
firebox.com

#### Hatching Unicorn Candle ►

Everyone loves a unicorn. They are, after all, very real (not mythical, like many think). Melt down this speckled unicorn egg to reveal a baby unicorn ceramic ornament. The candle features rainbow wax that melts out from within. What more could you ask for? It's the gayest Christmas present ever.

£29.99  
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HO HO  
MO!

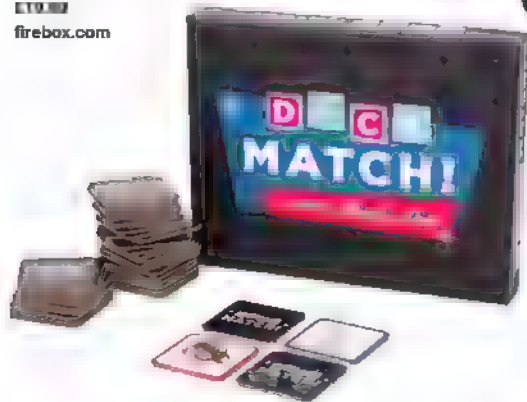


#### Dick Match ▼

We all loved a game of snap as kids, right? Whether it was on the train to the coast, on the plane heading abroad or just at home on a cold and rainy day. Well, we've all grown up a bit since then so why not move on to a snap game that's a little bit more, shall we say, adult?

This phallic version of snap turns the timeless fun of playing with dicks into a classic memory matching game. With 24 pairs of exquisitely illustrated genitalia, there's something for everybody from the humble 'piglet' to the mighty 'sledgehammer'.

£10.99  
firebox.com



#### Fur Real Roarin' Tyler the Playful Tiger ▼

It's the must have Christmas gift for kids! Meet Tyler the Playful Tiger. Make noise and listen to Tyler roar back and when you talk to him, he responds! This loveable tiger cub has more than 100 sound and motion combinations!

£19.99  
toysrus.co.uk



This  
year's must-  
have gift  
for kids!





#### Mulberry Grained Leather Billfold Wallet ▲

Treat your partner, friends or family to a bit of luxury in their pocket. This lovely Mulberry wallet is cut from vegetable-tanned grained leather. Featuring two cash sleeves and eight card slots, it's finished with signature foil branding.

£175.00  
selfridges.com



#### Gucci Web Stripe GG Supreme Wash Bag ▲

Underlining Gucci's understated elegance, this wash bag puts a luxury spin on any gent's daily routine. Clean-cut and structured in the signature GG Supreme canvas, the piece is centred with the brand's iconic webbing stripe. (Height 20cm, width 26cm, depth 6cm)

£450.00  
lyst.co.uk

#### Tom Ford Woven Single Wrap Leather Bracelet ▼

Globally renowned for its understated accessories and immaculate craftsmanship, Tom Ford's stamp is immediately evident on this slender Italian-made bracelet. Crowned by a gleaming gold-toned push-stud closure, its intricately woven strap is embossed with the name of the highly respected American brand.

£270.00  
mrporter.com



#### T2 Tea Kit - Best in Black ▲

Meet two of your soon-to-be favourite black teas, complete with everything you need to brew the perfect cuppa. The kit includes an infuser and perfect scoop. Just add hot water and you're in black tea heaven. The T2 Tea Kit Best In Black features French Earl Grey and Melbourne Breakfast.

£20.00  
t2tea.com



#### ◀ D1 Special Edition L-SFD1 Quartz Watch

D1 Milano's understated, hi-tech timepieces have earned the label a global fan base. The Special Edition L-SFD1 watch is water-resistant to 50 metres and displays a clearly marked face decorated solely with the brand's logo in the trademark octagonal case.

£235.00  
selfridges.com

# Time to Activate!

This Christmas, **Birmingham LGBT Centre** is encouraging Zone readers to get (or stay) active.

And to help you with this, there's a range of LGBT sport and fitness activities and events going on in and around Birmingham.

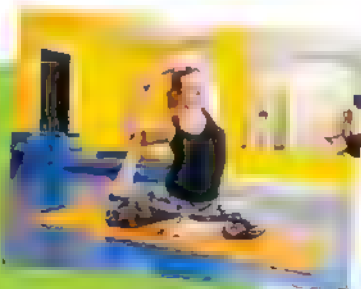
**Yoga**

Why? Yoga is great for flexibility and strength, as an activity in itself, and is also complementary for many other sports, protecting and improving your body. It's great for the mind, too!

Pilates is brilliant for posture and core, is suitable for all levels, and gives your abs a fantastic workout.

Where? There are three weekly yoga classes at the Birmingham LGBT Centre, two aimed at beginners and one for improvers. There's also a weekly Pilates class.

The full programme of exercise classes at the Centre is free



**Badminton**

Why? Badminton can be easy or hard, depending on your opponents. As well as boosting your general fitness and giving lots of opportunities to socialise, it's great for improving coordination and balance

Where? Midlands Out Badminton play weekly on a Saturday morning. It's a fun session with a range of abilities but without coaching so it's a good idea to brush up the rules and the basics before going along.

**If you don't fancy badminton... how about table tennis at the Birmingham LGBT Centre?**



## Rugby

Why? Rugby is sociable, inclusive and a great workout. Training and playing regularly is fantastic for strength and fitness.

Where? Birmingham Bulls RFC train twice a week and play in league matches. People new to the sport and not currently active are welcome, as are more experienced players.

**If you don't fancy rugby... how about football with Birmingham Blaze FC?**



**Bollywood dance**

Why? As well as being a brilliant workout, Bollywood dance gives you the satisfaction of learning a routine and telling a story through the moves. The music adds an extra buzz to this fun dance form.

Where? Free trial sessions are running at the Birmingham LGBT Centre in November and December.

**If you don't fancy Bollywood dance... how about line dancing?**

So find out more at [birminghamlgbt.org.uk/fitness](http://birminghamlgbt.org.uk/fitness) and head along!

There are also taster sessions and short courses on offer. And there's a sport and fitness group for trans and non binary people.

Best of all, alongside all this, if you have an idea for a sports club, group or activity, they can help make it happen! Perhaps you'd like to do some martial arts, climbing, fencing or archery? Or be part of a team in hockey, basketball, roller derby or dodgeball? Drop them a line at [activate@blgbt.org](mailto:activate@blgbt.org)





GET ACTIVE AND KEEP ACTIVE WITH  
BIRMINGHAM LGBT

WANT TO SET UP A NEW  
LGBT SPORTS GROUP?

**TALK TO US!**

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

 [birminghamlgbt.org.uk](http://birminghamlgbt.org.uk)

 0121 643 0821

 @birminghamlgbt



Birmingham LGBT



# What's On

**Fri 1 - Sun 10 December**



More Than Friends vocalist Kelli Leigh heads to Birmingham's Nightingale Club this month to perform top-10 hits including her current James Hype track, Duke Dumont's I Got U and Secondcity's I Wanna Feel.

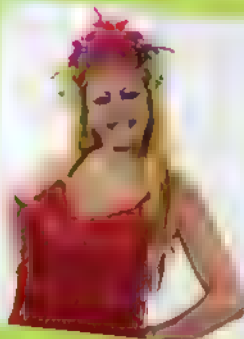
We've got a feeling it's gonna be one helluva night!

**Saturday 2 December - The Nightingale, Birmingham**

## Marty's Party heads to Coventry!

**Birmingham drag legend**  
Marty Smith is heading  
down the road to Coven-  
try's newest gay venue,  
The Yard, this month.  
She'll be serving up her  
usual dose of fun, games  
and naughty antics in  
what promises to be a  
great night out!

**Friday 1 December**  
**The Yard, Coventry**



## Steps Tribute

If you're in Birmingham on the 9th to attend the Steps concert, then it's a no brainer that you head over to the city's popular Eden Bar afterwards for the venue's unofficial afterparty

You'll be able to relive the whole night with one of the UK's top Steps tribute acts!

All together now... 5, 6, 7, 8!

**Saturday 9 December - Eden, Birmingham**

# Gemma Collins

## heads to Wolves

TOWIE star Gemma Collins makes an appearance at award-winning Wolverhampton gay venue Gorgeous this month.

Gemma will be on hand to ensure you're all having a great night and taking advantage of the fantastic £1 drinks offers!

Get there early, it's sure to be a busy one.

**Thursday 7 December**  
**Gorgeous, Wolverhampton**

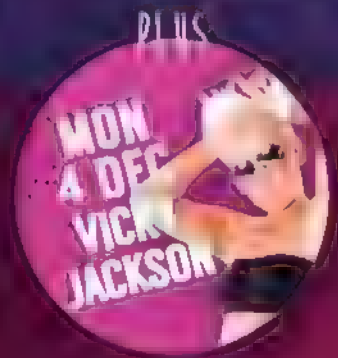




# FABULOUS MONDAYS!

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**THE BIGGEST GAY MONDAY NIGHT  
IN THE MIDLANDS!**



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**MISS  
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Vs  
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HAPPY HOUR TILL 2AM  
EVERY THURSDAY

**WORLD AIDS DAY  
SUN-TING  
WONG**  
FRIDAY 01

**ALL STARS**  
SUNDAY 02

**TANYA  
HYDE**  
FRIDAY 03

**Stars  
ON THE  
RISE** WITH  
**YSHEE  
BLACK**  
SUNDAY 10

**THE D.E.  
EXPERIENCE**  
FRIDAY 16

**MISS  
THUNDERPUSSY**  
FRIDAY 22

**MISS MARTY  
CHRISTMAS EVE SPECIAL**  
SUNDAY 24

**OPEN  
XMAS  
DAY**  
FROM 7PM

**MISS PENNY**  
BOXING DAY SPECIAL  
TUESDAY 26

**SANDRA  
LONDON**  
FRIDAY 29

**NYE**  
A PACK OF THE  
TOWN'S BEST  
OPEN TILL LATE

**DECEMBER**  
**THE VILLAGE INN**



# What's On

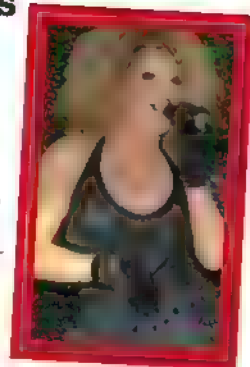
Mon 11 - Sun 17 December



## Cassidy Connors heads to The Yard in Coventry!

Ex-Priscilla Queen Of The Desert star Cassidy Connors this month heads over to Coventry gay bar The Yard to present a fun-filled, action-packed show. Not seen her before? Then get along - she's fabulous!

**Friday 14 December -  
The Yard, Coventry**

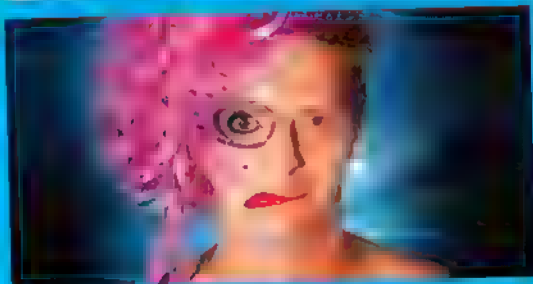


## Essential 80s returns to Eden Bar

If you're a lover of all things '80s, then Eden Bar in Birmingham has just the event for you this month. One of the UK's best known '80s tribute bands, Essential 80s, are returning to the venue on the 16th - and last time they appeared at Eden, they stormed it!

**Saturday 16 December - Eden, Birmingham**

## The D.E. Experience back in Brum!



Back once again at Birmingham's Village Inn is the finest ever tribute to Dame Edna Jonathan Helyer's DE Experience! This is one of the most popular nights at The Village, so get there early to bag your self a good view!

**Friday 15 December - The Village Inn,  
Birmingham**

## Who fancies Free Entry & £1 Drinks at The Nightingale?

If you're looking for a great night out, The Nightingale in Birmingham is one of the best places to head for - particularly as they're offering you free admission before midnight every Saturday! Not only that, there's an all-night-long £1 drinks list too! See you on the dancefloor.

**Every Saturday - The Nightingale, Birmingham**

## MidsBears Christmas at Brum's Eden Bar!



Are you a bear - or maybe simply an admirer of them? If so, then head to Birmingham's favourite men's bar, Eden, for a night dedicated to all things fur!

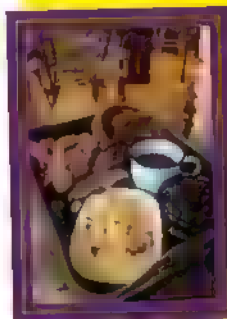
This month's get-together takes the form of the group's annual and not-to-be-missed Christmas Party

**Friday 15 December -  
Eden, Birmingham**

# What's On

Mon 18 - Sun 24 December

## Grab a great roast at The Loft



Look no further than The Loft for your hangover-soothing Sunday lunch! With an impressive selection of meats available, you'll be hard-pressed to find a better offer!

**Every Sunday -  
The Loft,  
Birmingham**



## La Voix & Dolly star at Eden Bar's Christmas Party!

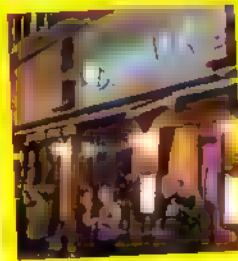
There's double trouble at Eden Bar this month as La Voix and 'Dolly Parton' help celebrate Christmas at the popular venue. It's free entry all night, so if you fancy some festive frivolity, pop along and enjoy the show!

**Saturday 23 December - Eden, Birmingham**

## Miss Marty's Christmas Party

If you're looking for a way to bring in Christmas Day with your mates, then look no further than Miss Marty's Christmas Eve Special. Featuring drinks, games, singing and dancing, it's a great way to see in the big day!

**Sunday 24 December - The Village Inn,  
Birmingham**

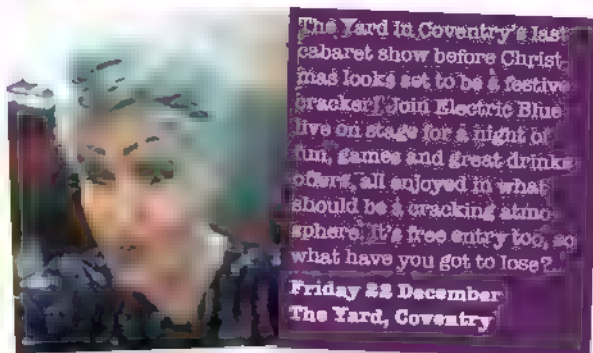


## Cocktail time at Sidewalk!

Fancy joining us for a cocktail or several at Sidewalk? They're two-for-one from midday till 8pm every day - or all day on a Monday! Which one will you choose?

**Every day at Sidewalk,  
Birmingham**

## She's Electric! Cabaret at The Yard



The Yard in Coventry's last cabaret show before Christmas looks set to be a festive bracker! Join Electric Blue live on stage for a night of fun, games and great drinks offered, all enjoyed in what should be a cracking atmosphere. It's free entry too, so what have you got to lose?

**Friday 22 December  
The Yard, Coventry**

## Let's play with Queeny's Bingo balls!

Monday nights see local drag star Queeny hosting her very own bingo event at award-winning gay venue The Village Inn. It's a great night out and offers you the chance to win £100 each and every week. Not only that, you also get drinks for £1 all night!

**Every Monday - The Village Inn, Birmingham**



We are open every day from 2pm  
except Christmas Day & New Year's Day

# DECEMBER ARTISTES

eden

THE BEST CABARET EVERY MONTH

FRI  
1st

**FANNY BURNS**

SAT  
2nd

**RUBY MURRY**

SAT  
9th

**STEPS TRIBUTE**

The Steps Concert  
AFTER PARTY!  
STEPS Classic Hits

SUN  
10th

**LEATHER SOCIAL**

FRI  
15th

**MIDS BEARS**

**XMAS  
PARTY**

SAT  
16th

**80's LIVE BAND**

Not To Be Missed!  
ESSENTIAL 80s  
Awesome Band.

SUN  
17th

**BIG GAY FAMILY**

4pm - 8pm - Family Entertainment  
Fundraising for Bham Children's Hospital  
Carols - Magician - 2 Real Reindeer  
Father Christmas and lots more

SAT  
23rd

**XMAS PARTY**

La Voix  
& Dolly!

TUE  
26th

**MARY MAC**

Is reopening  
Eden at 17.00!

SUN  
31st

**NYE**

**FREE  
ENTRY**

**La Voix & The Dolly Show Eden's Xmas Party**

SUN Xmas Eve  
24th DJ Nikki

MON CLOSED  
25th


MON CLOSED  
1st

**EVERY FRI & SUN KARAOKE & DISCO DJ NIKKI**

116 Sherlock St. Birmingham, B5 6NB | End of Hurst Street | 0121 622 1953 | [www.TheEdenBx.co.uk](http://www.TheEdenBx.co.uk)

# What's On

Mon 25 - Sun 31 December



## Get ready for Miss Penny's Boxing Day Special!

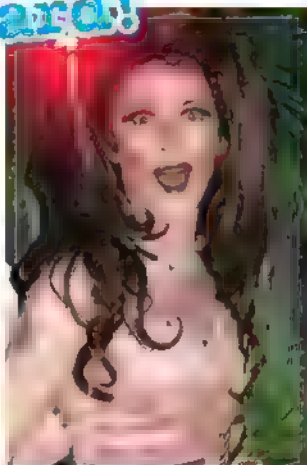
So the big day is over for another year. But what to do now, after eating all that turkey? Well, you go out and party, of course - and what better place to do it than at Miss Penny's Boxing Day Special! Featuring fun and games galore, it's the perfect way to get ready for New Year's Eve!

**Tuesday 26 December - The Village Inn, Birmingham**

## Annie Rexic at The Yard!

If you're out in Coventry on the 29th, be sure to swing by The Yard for their last cabaret night of the year. The ever-popular Annie Rexic takes to the stage for an evening of fun, games and sing-along songs! What more do you need in the run up to New Year's Eve?!

**Friday 29 December  
The Yard, Coventry**



## Guess who's back? Mary Mac!

If you're looking for a night of top cabaret, then look no further than the fantastic Mary Mac. Scottish drag queen Mary is an Eden Bar favourite and always puts on a hilarious show. So get yourself along and enjoy some Boxing Day magic!

## Saathi

Brum's best Asian  
night is back!

Birmingham's biggest monthly gay Asian club night returns to The Nightingale on the 29th - and as usual looks set to provide a fabulous night out! Taking place between 10pm and 4am, with entry costing just £10, it's a great chance to put on your funkiest clothes and party, party, party!

**Friday 29 December - The Nightingale, Birmingham**

## Sandra returns to The Village Inn!

The Whore of Hampstead Heath returns home to Birmingham on the 29th for her monthly residency at popular cabaret bar The Village Inn.

Alongside Sandra's games and shenanigans, there are delicious drinks offers to enjoy too, as well as the chance to party through to the crack of dawn. Go for it!

**Friday 29 December -  
The Village Inn,  
Birmingham**







## New Year's Eve House Party in Birmingham!

Fancy a New Year's Eve party with a difference? Then head for Birmingham gay superclub The Nightingale! The venue's biggest event of the year takes the shape of a magnificent House Party featuring their very own living room, dancers and pyrotechnics - and you're invited!

**Sunday 31 December - The Nightingale, Birmingham**

## Celebrate New Year's Eve with The Chiquititas at Coventry's The Yard!

Knowing me, knowing you! There's a whole night of ABBA fun to be had this New Year's Eve at Coventry gay venue The Yard! Join one of the UK's finest ABBA tribute acts, The Chiquititas, for a fun'n'fabulous singalong and all your favourite ABBA tracks. The evening is hosted by Fannie Coil, with entry free till 4am. Couple that with fab drinks offers and a fantastic atmosphere and there's no better party to be at.

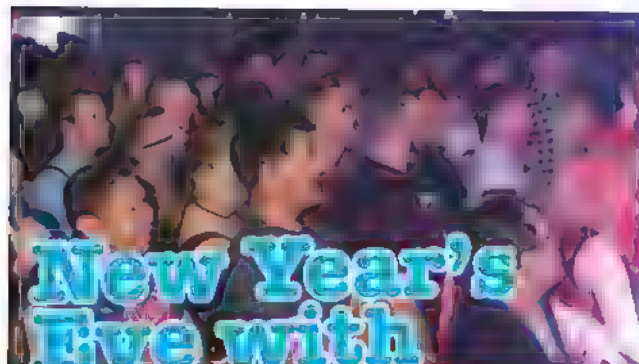
**Sunday 31 December - The Yard, Coventry**

## See in 2018 in style at Gorgeous in Wolves



Now here's a Gorgeous way to see in the new year. Wolverhampton's Gorgeous Bar & Club has frozen its entry and drinks prices, meaning you can spend New Year's Eve at the venue at no extra cost! There's great music from resident DJs to enjoy too, right through until the early hours...

**Sunday 31 December - Gorgeous, Wolverhampton**



## New Year's Eve with DJ Nikki!

If you're doing New Year's Eve on a budget this year, Eden Bar's big celebration is the one for you. With free entry all night long and DJ Nikki catering for all your music needs, the party is certainly going to be bouncing! A great way to see in 2018.

## Have an XXL New Year's Eve!



The Midlands' biggest and boldest men-only club night is having an extra-special New Year's Eve party this month. With guest DJ John Logan providing the soundtrack to the night, the award winning event will see hundreds of men from bears to cubs and everything in between partying the night away into 2018

**Sunday 31 December - The Core Club, Birmingham**

**BEVERLEY  
KNIGHT**  
as THE FAIRY GODMOTHER

**DANNY  
MAC**  
as PRINCE CHARMING

**MATT  
SLACK**  
as BUTTER

**SUZANNE  
SHAW**  
as CINDERELLA



# CINDERELLA

THE  
FAIRY GODMOTHER  
OF ALL PANTOMIMES

THE  
**GRUMBLEWEEDS**  
as THE BROKER'S MEN

**CERI · PHIL  
DUPREE · RANDALL**  
as THE UGLY SISTERS

**19 DEC -  
28 JAN**

**H BIRMINGHAM  
HIPPODROME**

0844 338 5000

[birminghamhippodrome.com](http://birminghamhippodrome.com)

Admission: £10.50 per min. (incl. drinks & charge)





# What's On



## Steps

Kids of the '90s rejoice - all conquering pop another super-soaraway comeback, this time to celebrate Christmas.

and their classic cover of the Bee Gees' Tragedy

what all the fuss was about when they bring their Party On 11 Dancefloor Tour to Brum this month, complete with the fabulous in support.

Genting Arena, Birmingham

## The Good, The Bad And The Ugly Sisters

Anybody who thinks Christmas theatre is only for the kids should get themselves along to the Belgrade's B2 and sample this fun-filled spoof on the spaghetti western genre. Expect plenty of energy, glass slippers with spurs attached, and the unmistakable sound of bells chiming at high noon...

**Saturday 2 - Saturday 30 December, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry**

## Ice Skate Birmingham



## Crisis at Christmas

Enjoy an evening of quality comedy and help the homeless while you're at it.

Crisis At Christmas is a unique volunteer effort that provides immediate assistance for homeless people at a critical time of year. And by attending this special event, you'll be helping to raise much-needed funds for national charity Crisis, to provide food, warmth and vital services for people who're having to live on the streets

Birmingham-born Joe Lycett is host for the evening, with comedy contributions coming from Harry Hill, Joe Pasquale, Tom Ward, Darren Harriot and Kiri Pritchard McLean.

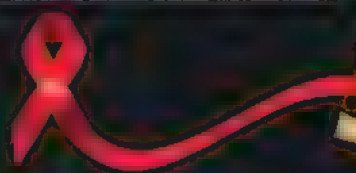
**Monday 18 December, Glee Club, Birmingham**

# FREE WORLD AIDS DAY EVENT

FRIDAY 1 DECEMBER at EDEN BAR

7.00pm **VIGIL** to include speakers from  
Birmingham LGBT, Positive West Midlands and  
Dr. David White - HIV Doctor at Heartlands Hospital.  
To include a buffet of light refreshments

7.45pm **RENT**  
Special World AIDS Day screening



Birmingham LGBT



MUSEUM &  
ART GALLERY

**FREE  
ENTRY**

# Coming Out

SEXUALITY, GENDER & IDENTITY

2 DEC 2017 - 15 APR 2018

A ground-breaking and vital contemporary art exhibition including works by Grayson Perry, Tracey Emin, Andy Warhol, Doreli Jarmen, Sarah Lucas, David Hockney, Chila Kuerari Burman, Sunil Gupta and Steve McQueen.

#ACCNationalPartners  
#ComingOutBMAG



Twitter: @BM\_AG Instagram: @birmingham\_mag

Facebook: /birminghammuseumandartgallery

[birminghammuseums.org.uk](http://birminghammuseums.org.uk)

Coming Out is a touring exhibition conceived by National Museums Liverpool, in partnership with Birmingham Museums Trust as part of the Arts Council Collection National Partners Programme 2016-19. Arts Council Collection is managed by Southbank Centre on behalf of Arts Council England.







## Barbara Nice's Christmas Cracker

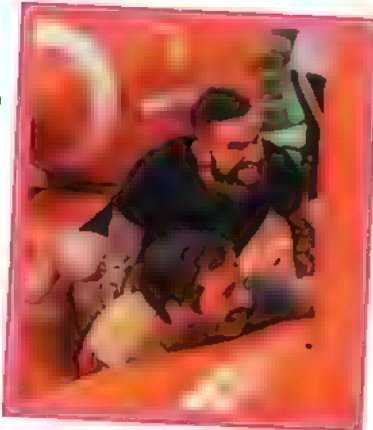
pies, and even the odd special guest or two

## The Beast

Here at Zone, if we're not flouncing we're bouncing - so news that something bouncy, inflatable and an impressive 272m in length is heading for the region certainly made us prick up our ears. Midlanders are being invited to unleash their beast at Birmingham's NEC this month, courtesy of the world's largest inflatable obstacle course.

The Beast is 'the ultimate bouncy castle experience for adults' and features no fewer than 32 obstacles. Visitors to the event can also enjoy street food, cocktails and craft beers. Live DJs and an 'extraordinary' sound and lighting show also feature.

**Friday 8 - Sunday 17 December, NEC, Birmingham**



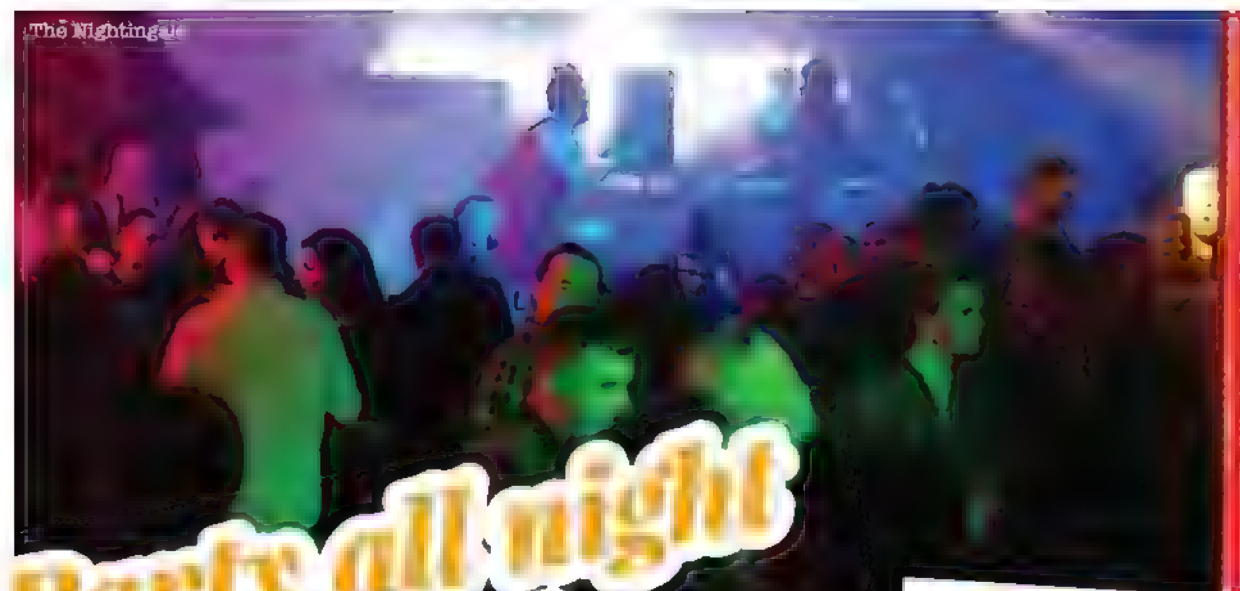
## Cinderella

With its comical Ugly Sisters, matchmaking fairy god-mother, drop-dead gorgeous Prince Charming, super-cute mice and fits-one-foot-only glass slipper, Cinderella can justifiably lay claim to being the most popular of all pantomimes... The hunky Danny Mac stars alongside Midlands-born soul diva Beverley Knight in the Hippodrome production, traditionally the biggest panto in all of pantoland (oh yes it is!). Ceri Dupree and Phil Randall don the giant wigs and altogether unpleasant manner to play those oh-so-nasty Uglies.

**Tuesday 19 December - Sunday 28 January, Birmingham Hippodrome; Friday 1 December - Saturday 20 January, Nottingham Playhouse**

## Peter Pan

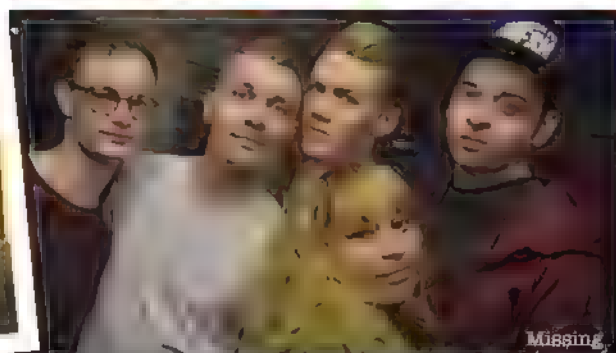
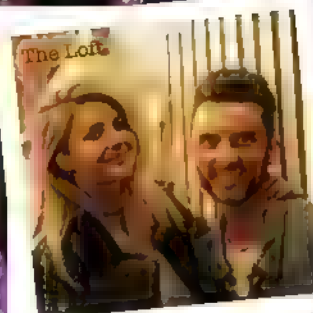
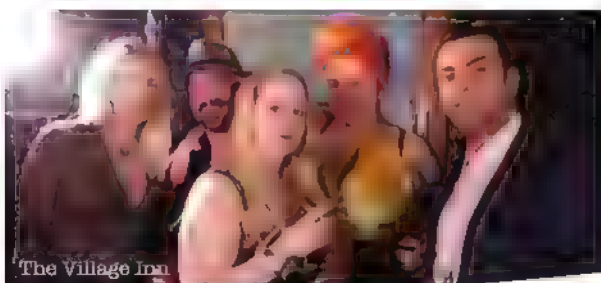




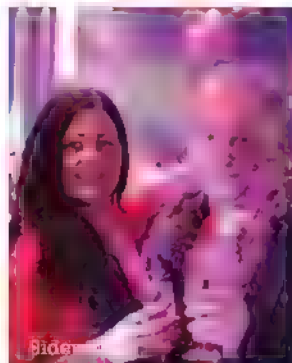
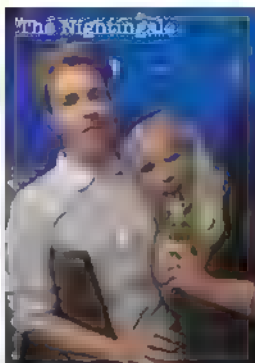
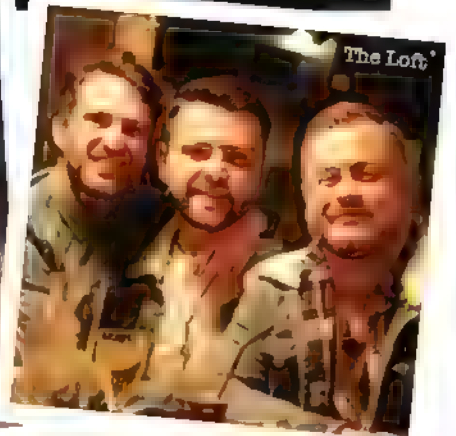
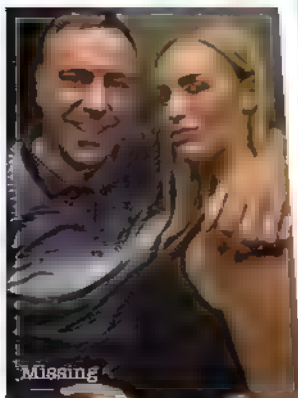
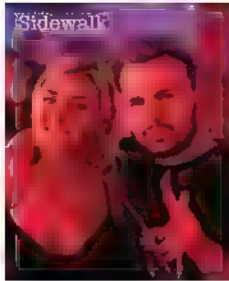
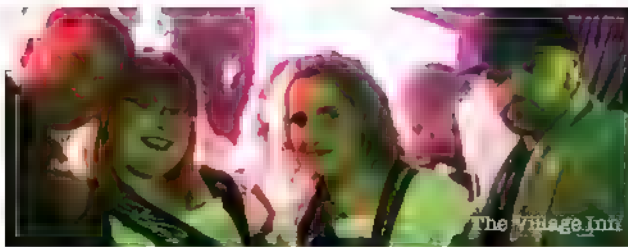
# Party all night in vibrant Birmingham

**If you're out for the night in Birmingham, then the city's gay scene is a great place to be!**

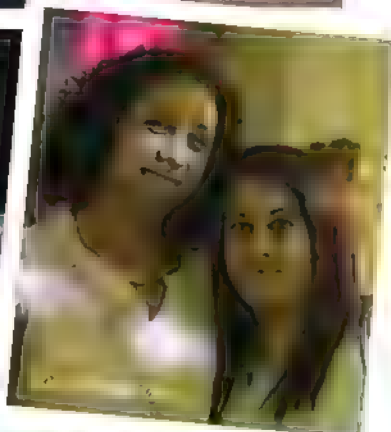
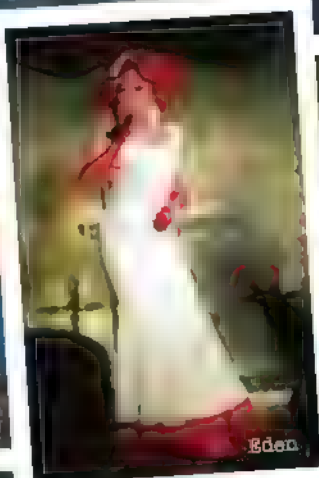
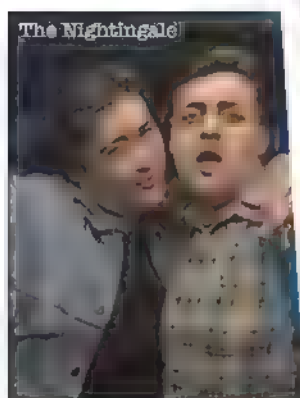
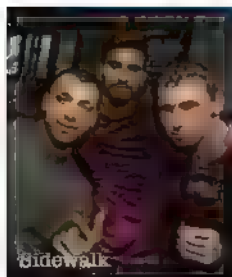
With over 15 bars and clubs to choose from, there really is something for everyone! It's a truly great night out!



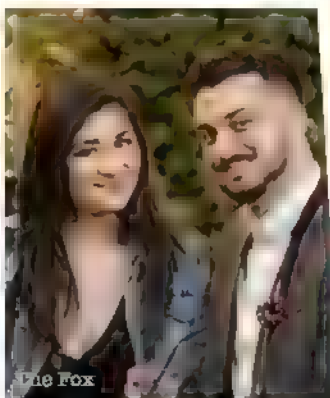
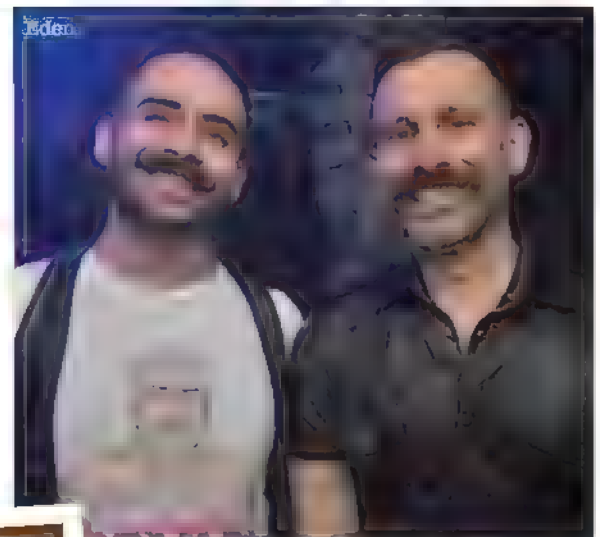
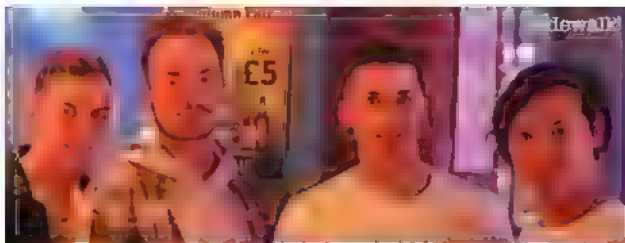
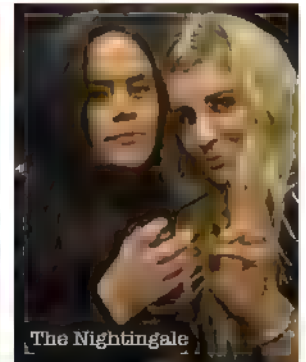
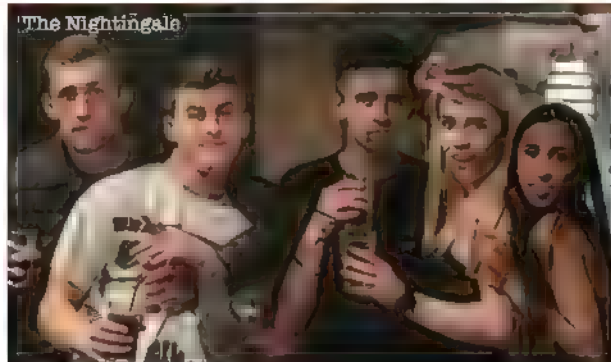




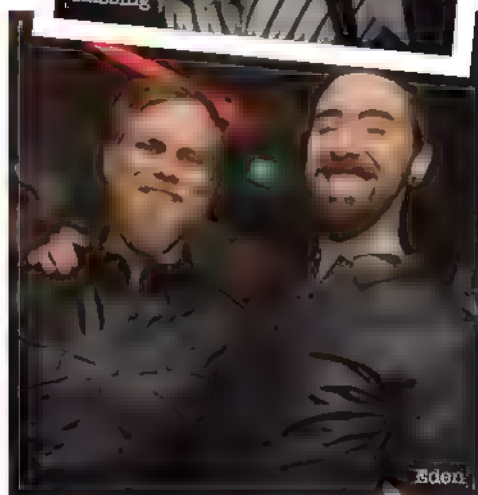
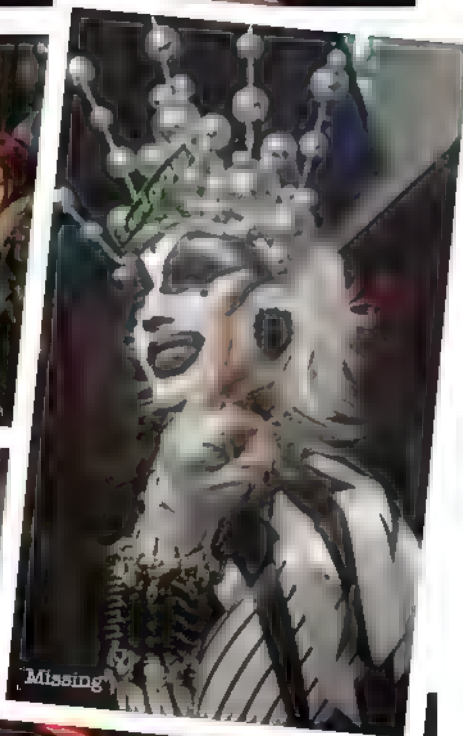
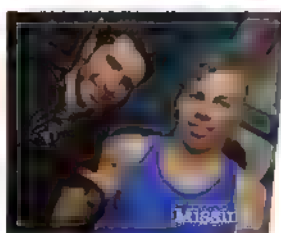
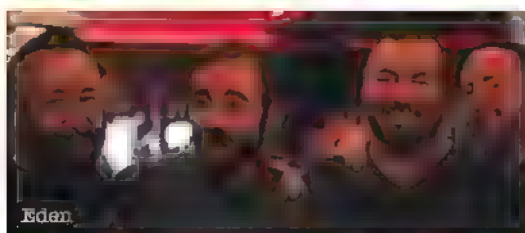
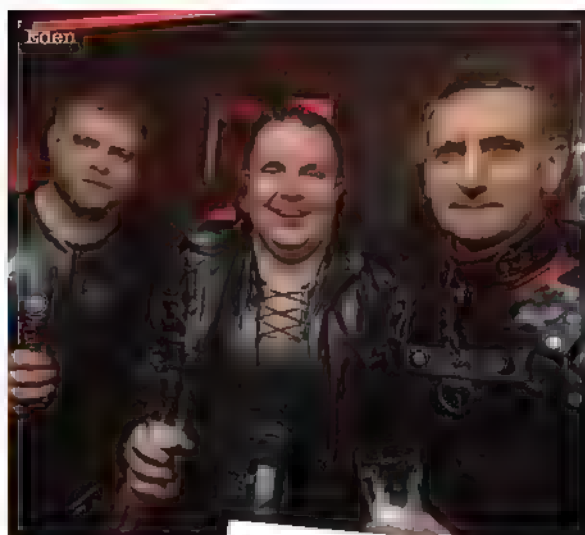
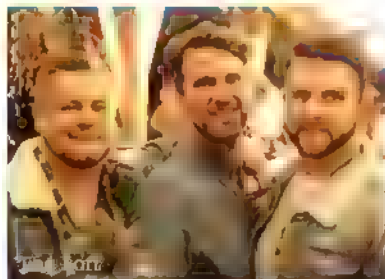
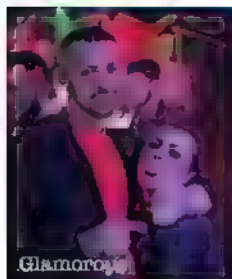
# Party all night in vibrant Birmingham







# Party all night in vibrant Birmingham





**MARK AMES  
PRESENTS**



**THE BIGGER BETTER  
BOLDER BEARS CLUB**

**XXL BIRMINGHAM**  
**31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER NYE EVENT**

10PM - 4AM £6 ENTRY

**THE CORE CLUB**  
136 SHERLOCK ST, BIRMINGHAM B5 8NB

**XXL-LONDON.COM**

**GLAMOROUS  
BIRMINGHAM**

**OPEN TILL LATE  
7 DAYS A WEEK  
INCLUDING CHRISTMAS EVE  
CHRISTMAS DAY AND NEW YEARS DAY**

THE FOX TEAM WOULD  
LIKE TO THANK ALL  
THEIR CUSTOMERS FOR  
SUPPORTING THEM OVER  
THE LAST 20 YEARS AND  
WISH THEM ALL A

**Happy  
Christmas**  
AND AN  
**Amazing 2018**

AND HERE'S TO THE NEXT 20 YEARS

**SAATHI**

*Friday 29th December 2017*

**Nightingale Club**  
*Kens Street, Birmingham B5 6RD*

**£10 before midnight 10.00pm - 4.00am**  
Photo ID may be required: Passport/Driving Licence

**TAKE A  
TEST  
UK.COM**

**TAKETESTUK.COM offers discreet,  
confidential testing kits.**

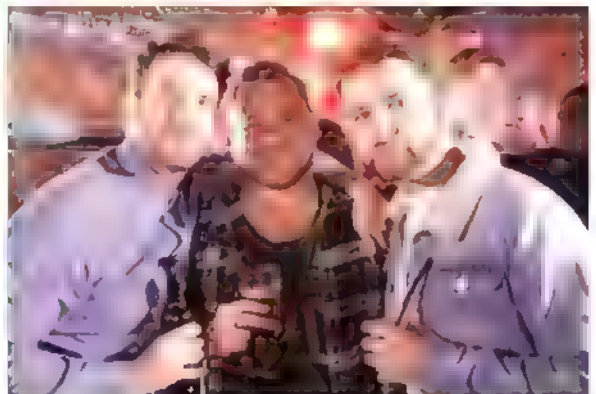
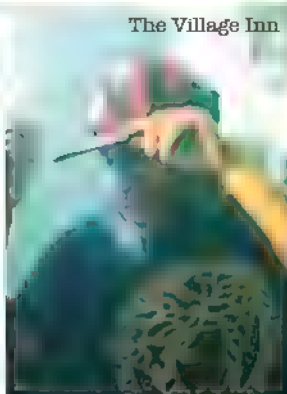
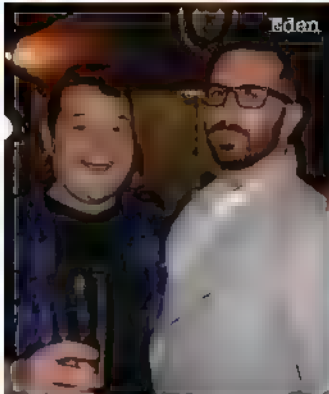
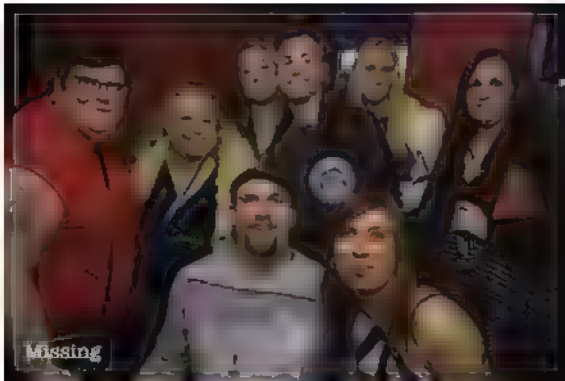
All of our home sampling kits are processed by Public Health England  
Birmingham - accredited by UKAS to ISO15189:2012 standards

Heart of England **NHS** Birmingham  
Birmingham  
Hearlands  
HIV Service

**SAVING  
LIVES  
UK.COM**



# Party all night in the town Birmingham





gorgeous

WOLVERHAMPTON'S  
BIGGEST, CHEAPEST &  
LATEST NIGHT OUT!

# SKINT

— EVERY THURSDAY —

THURSDAY 7 DECEMBER

GEMMA  
COLLINS

THE  
WALK

LIVE

JAMES LEVETT &  
DARRYL WILLIAMS

JAY DEVOUR

10 DRINKS  
FOR £10\*

OLD SPICED RUM





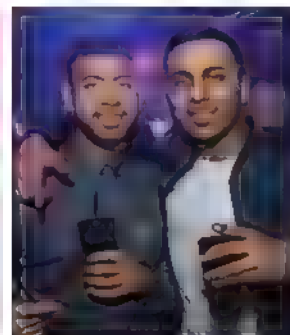
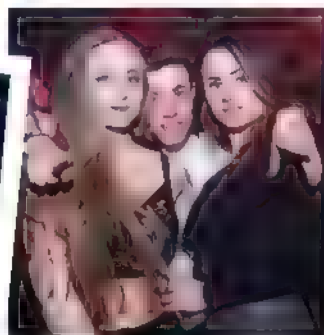
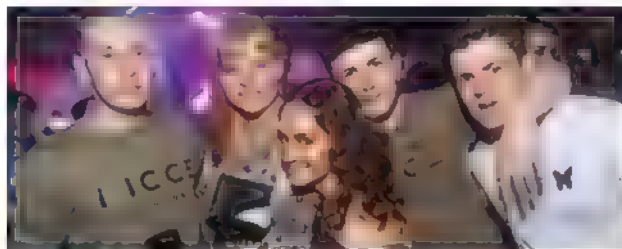


# A Gorgeous night out in Wolverhampton

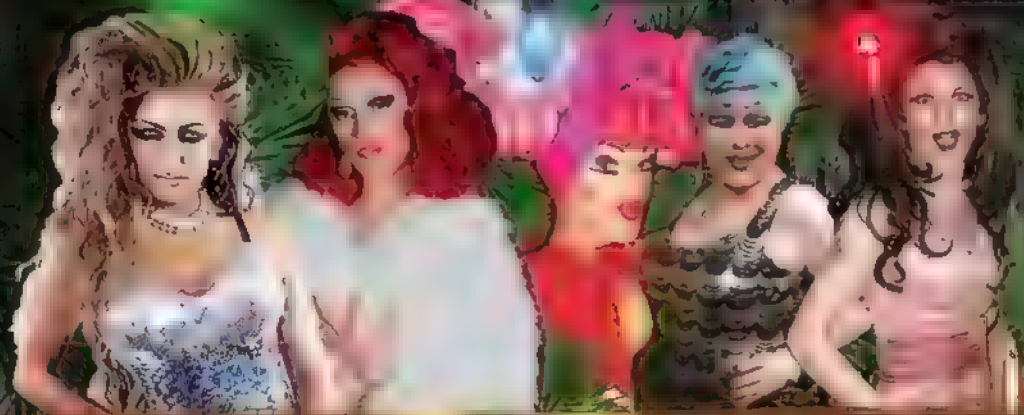


**If you're looking to party in Wolverhampton, head down to local LGBT venue Gorgeous for an evening of top-class revelry!**

Bringing together a great atmosphere, cracking drinks offers, fabulous customers and fantastic music, the venue offers a truly Gorgeous night out!



Pictures by First Reunion Media



## CABARET THIS DECEMBER

FRIDAY 1ST  
MISS MARTY

FRIDAY 8TH  
MISSY JAY

FRIDAY 15TH  
CASSIDY CUNNORS

FRIDAY 22ND  
ELECTRIC BLUE

FRIDAY 29TH  
ANNIE REXIC

1ST DEC

### WORLD AIDS DAY

PROUD TO BE FUNDRAISING  
ALL WEEKEND WITH LIVE BANDS,  
CABARET AND DJS



THE BIG  
SATURDAY  
NIGHT OUT  
THROUGH UNTIL 4AM

SUNDAY  
SERVICE

NIYE  
ABBA  
PARTY!



The  
Chiquitas

Love and Glamour

Free Entry  
Until 11pm



hosted by  
FANNIE COIL

the  
yard



@theyardcoventry



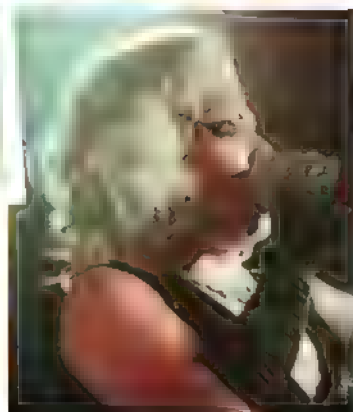
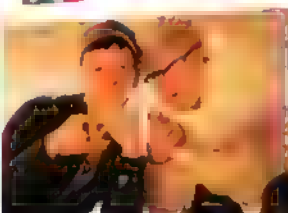
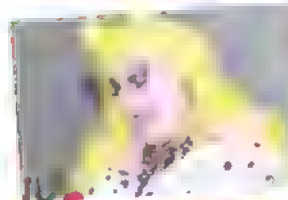
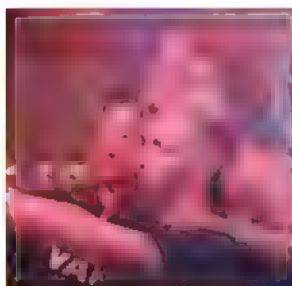
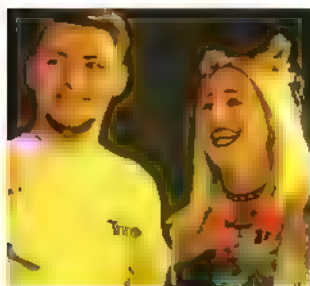
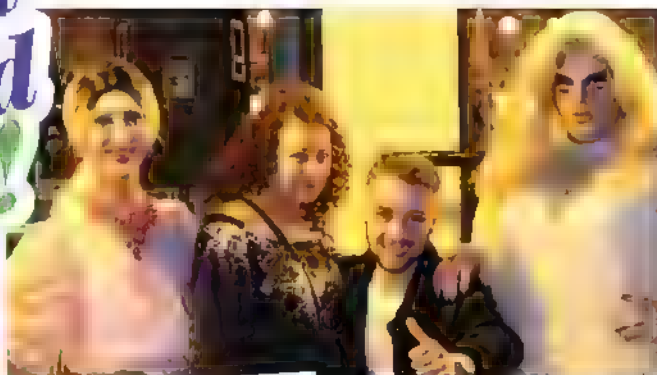
The Yard, 11-12 Bull Yard, Coventry, CV1 1LH  
www.theyardcoventry.co.uk 024 7501 2959



# There's a great night to be had at **The Yard!**

One of the newest gay bars in the Midlands, Coventry venue **The Yard** is going down a storm with the city's LGBT community.

The Yard features cabaret throughout the week, good music and great drinks, making it a real go-to venue on your night out. Why not pop along and see what's happening...



TREAD THE BOARDS  
THEATRE COMPANY  
PRESENTS

## Cinderella

Directed by JOE ROBERT PARTRIDGE  
Written by MIKE TOTTEN

14 DEC - 7 JAN 2018 Price: £15.00 Adults

THE COVENTRY MUSIC MUSEUM

presents

## NEVILLE STAPLE

THE ORIGINAL RUDEBOY

THE EXHIBITION

COMMENCING JANUARY 2018

THE COVENTRY MUSIC MUSEUM  
74-80 Walsgrave Rd  
Coventry, CV2 4ED  
WWW.COYMM.CO.UK

Admission is £3.00 Adults and £1.00 Children\*  
\*between the ages of 5-15

# GAY BARS & CLUBS IN THE MIDLANDS...



## BAR JESTER

Holloway Circus, B1 1EG  
Tel: 0121 643 8344

## BOLTZ CLUB

Lower Essex St, B5 6QP  
Tel: 0121 666 6888

## CLUB CHIC

28 Horsefair, B11DD  
Tel: 0121 666 8066

## THE CORE

Sherlock St, B5 6NB  
Tel: 0121 622 2797  
www.thecoreclub.co.uk

## DEVILS KITCHEN

Kent St, B5 6NB

## EDEN BAR

Sherlock St, B5 6NB  
Tel: 0121 622 1953  
www.theedenbar.co.uk  
/eden.bar

## RHAPSODY BAR

Hurst St, B5 6SE  
Tel: 0121 622 4046

## FOUNTAIN INN

Wrentham St, B5 6QL  
Tel: 0121 622 1452

## THE FOX

17 Lower Essex St,  
B5 6SN Tel: 0121 622 3213

## GLAMOROUS BAR

27 Hurst St, B5 4BD  
www.glamorousbirmingham.co.uk

/pg/Glamorousbirmingham

## THE LOFT

142 Bromsgrove St,  
B5 6RG  
Tel: 0121 6222 444  
www.theloftlounge.co.uk

/The-Loft-Lounge

## MISSING BAR

Hurst St, B5 6NU  
Tel: 0121 622 4256  
www.missingbar.co.uk  
/missingbar

## THE NIGHTINGALE

Kent St, B5 6RD  
Tel: 0121 622 1718  
www.nightingaleclub.co.uk  
/thenightingaleclub

## SIDEWALK

Hurst Street, B5 6SE  
Tel: 0121 666 6220  
www.sidewalkbirmingham.co.uk

## THE VILLAGE INN

Hurst St, B5 4BD  
Tel: 0121 622 4742  
www.villagebirmingham.co.uk  
/villageinnbirmingham

## THE WELLINGTON

72 Bristol St, B5 7AH  
Tel: 0121 622 2592



## COVENTRY

## RAINBOWS

Short St, CV1 2LW  
Tel: 02476 551738

## THE YARD

11-12 Bull Yard, CV1 1LH  
Tel: 02475 012959

## GLOUCESTER

## THE WESTGATE

Westgate Street, GL1 2NF  
Tel: 01452 690045

## KIDDERMINSTER

## ROYAL EXCHANGE

31 New Road, DY10 1AF  
Tel: 01562 228619

## SHREWSBURY

## THE PEACH TREE

18-21 Abbey Foregate,  
Tel: 01743 355055

www.thepeachtree.co.uk

/ThePeachTreeRestaurant

## HAVANA REPUBLIC

18-21 Abbey Foregate,  
SY2 6AE  
Tel: 01743 271821

www.havanarepublic.co.uk,

/HavanaRepublic

## LEEK

## VALIANT

3 Stanley Street, ST13 5HG  
Tel: 01538 382812

## STOKE-ON-TRENT

## GOSSIP

4 Hope Street, ST1 5BT  
Tel: 01782 204957

## PIKE

93 Stafford Street, ST1 1LS  
Tel: 01782 272772

## STOURBRIDGE

## THE ULL

20 Market St, DY8 1AG  
Tel: 07826 518478

## STRATFORD upon AVON

## NOT

Prowd Crowd, 1st Mon  
monthly, 7 Windsor St  
Tel: 07787 642510

## TELFORD

## THREE FURNACES

30 Bridgnorth Rd, Madeley  
TF7 4JB, 01952 588521

## WALSALL

## THE LION

Birch Is St, WS2 8NG  
Tel: 01922 610977

## THE RED LION

Park St, WS1 1NW  
Tel: 01922 637790

## WOLVERHAMPTON

## BOND STREET TAVERN

14 Bond St, WV2 4AS  
Tel: 07825 305050

## GORGEOUS

School St, WV1 4LF  
Tel: 01902 427247

/gorgeousbar

## WORCESTER

## THE FLAG

50 Lowesmoor, WR1 2SG  
Tel: 01905 780467

## VELVET CLUB

Angel Row, WR1 3QN  
Tel: 01905 20218

## DERBY

## THE CROWN INN

40 Curzon St, DE1 1LL  
Tel: 01332 381742

## LEICESTER

## DOVER CASTLE

34 Dover St, LE16PT  
Tel: 0116 255 3052

## HELSINKI

94 Rutland St, LE1 1SB  
Tel: 0116 254 7568

## RAINBOW & DOVE

185 Charles St, LE1 1LA  
Tel: 0116 251 7986

## VENOM

(YOLO) Gay every Wed  
Belgrave Gate, LE1 3GR  
Tel: 0116 251 7986

## NORTHAMPTON

## THE BOSTON

Cottage St, NN1 2QP  
Tel: 01604 604404

## NOTTINGHAM

## NEW FORESTERS

St Ann's St, NG1 3LX  
Tel: 0115 958 0432

## THE NEWMARKET INN

38 Lower Parliament  
Street, NG1 3BA. (Gay  
Friendly)

## PROPAGANDA

8 Broadway, NG1 1PS  
0115 979 9183

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TO UPDATE YOUR VENUE  
LISTING PLEASE EMAIL  
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**TARGET OVER 60,000  
READERS EVERY MONTH**

To find out more contact: Lee Woodhouse on 01743 281783



## WIN! A Barcode Berlin Luckenwalde wrestling singlet

**If lycra's your thing, then boy, are you going to want to enter this competition!**

We've teamed up with the fine people over at Barcode Berlin to give all you lycra-wearing fetishists a chance to win one of their new Luckenwalde wrestling singlets!

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NEW WORLD

# munch

Food and drink news from across the Midlands...

**Shrewsbury's independent ramen noodle restaurant, MomoNoKi, has undergone a rebrand**

The much-loved eatery, located near the town's abbey, now boasts an impressive refurbishment and goes by the name of Momo's.

Featuring new comfortable chairs and benches - and a new menu - Momo's is now open every day from 12 noon through to 10pm, providing both eat-in and take-out food.

The new menu features a variety of light bites, including fried or steamed pork and Chinese leaf dumplings and takoyaki (steamed octopus balls), a variety of rice bowls, ramen soup bowls and omakase special noodle bowls.

The menu also features a kids' option and a 'pimp my own noodle' concept, allowing diners to create their own dish.

## Custo opens a second second-city eatery



**There's a new way to enjoy Ferrero Rocher in Leicester this Christmas..**

Recently opened patisserie The Dessert Boutique has included on its menu the Ferrero Rocher pyramid.

The mouthwatering sweet treat comes complete with chocolate brownie base and a chocolate pyramid containing Nutella mousse and a whole Ferrero Rocher - with an extra Ferrero Rocher on top, just for good measure!

Cheesecakes, cup cakes, sundaes, milkshakes and mocktails also feature on the menu. The Dessert Boutique is situated at 97a London Road, Leicester



**Cupcake-loving visitors to Selfridges Birmingham should prepare themselves for a real treat, thanks to the recent arrival in the store of Lola's Cupcakes.**

New to the city, Lola's handcrafts a wide range of themed cakes and cheesecakes for customers to enjoy, either in-store or at home.

With more than 30 flavours from which to choose, including vegan pistachio, gluten-free chocolate and tiramisu - there's a cupcake to suit every taste.

Selfridges Birmingham's General Manager, Sam Watts, said: "We're thrilled to unveil yet another exclusive brand to the store. Our customers really appreciate premium brands and Lola's Cupcakes are an excellent fit for our renowned food hall." For more information, visit [lolascupcakes.co.uk](http://lolascupcakes.co.uk)





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# THE LIFE OF A THIRTYSOMETHING GAY

## “The King & I”

I've had many loves in my life. Whether it's people, places I've seen, friends I've made or personal journeys I've been on, they have peppered my time. The most powerful and long lasting has been there since I was seven. As a child, I was a late developer. I refused to read. I hated learning the alphabet and I frequently failed desperately at spelling tests. My parents despaired. My teachers pulled their hair out and I sat there stubbornly refusing to budge. Until, that is, I turned seven, when, in a fit of pique, my mum changed tack, sat down with me and flicked through a book on the kings and queens of England. It had plenty of pictures, stories of battles, murder, conspiracies, politics and drama, enough to capture the imagination of any child. I wanted to know more. I began to read the words, I began to understand the stories, I began to read and write. I quickly blossomed.

But unwittingly, what I also discovered in the pages of that book was a man who would come to dominate my life. A man who was a king, a king who was gay, and a gay man who loved, beyond anyone or anything else, another man of his court who was torn away from him and brutally put to death. That man, that king, was Edward II. His story resonated profoundly with me, a child who already instinctively knew that he himself was somehow different. I was transfixed but I didn't know why. Edward II had awoken something in me that had always been there. In hindsight, he became my first love.

Years later, as an introverted, shy and spotty 14-year-old, I sat down to watch Mel Gibson don the blue paint as William Wallace in *Braveheart*. Little did I know that Edward II would be making his celluloid debut. Of course, he had all the usual censorship applied to him, being presented as a weak, foppish caricature of a man who failed at everything he did, and who seemingly witnessed his father throw his boyfriend out of a tower window I'd never been more transfixed or frustrated - the story was nothing short of false melodrama, but I was nevertheless hooked. I ran to the nearest Waterstones, flicked through the books neatly

stacked on the bookshelves to find out more about him, and whether it was all true. The pickings were slim and the information dripping with negativity and yet more censorship. My anger built. I needed to know about this man, yet there was nothing. In an age before mobiles, the internet and social media, I was cut off in an information vacuum and once more alone in the dusty gay closet. It drove me mad, but powered my determination. I knew then and there that if I couldn't find what I was looking for, I would one day need to write it myself.

In the years that followed I researched like no other. The biggest challenge when looking into the past - particularly an LGBT one - is that the histories are so often written by those who fail to appreciate sexuality. In a not-so-recent bygone age, when talking about same-sex sexuality was something either to be ridiculed or avoided, the story of LGBT characters was either written out of his story, conveniently overlooked or blatantly re-presented, to sanitise the past from perceived moral corruption.

Edward II was without doubt a lover of men. The evidence sits between the lines written by chroniclers of the time. They may not say the words, but they certainly beat around the bush. Though he married and fathered four legitimate children and one illegitimate child, Edward certainly had a string of male lovers throughout his reign. The man he loved beyond all measure was Piers Gaveston. Two years older than himself, Gaveston, like Edward, had lost his mother young. His father was often absent at war, as was Edward's. As teenagers, the pair came together, their friendship spilling over into sexual intimacy. When Edward became king in 1307, he immediately elevated Gaveston to the earldom of Cornwall, showered him with gifts and granted him key political roles. The nobles balked, Gaveston was thrice exiled, but Edward kept bringing him back. Piers was eventually murdered in June 1312; he was run through with a sword, and then his head was cut off. He was 29.



For the next 10 years, Edward sought vengeance for the murder of his lover. England became highly unstable, opinions and loyalties polarised and the country teetered on the brink of civil war. In the end, Edward won, killed those who had murdered Piers and took another lover. Only this time, his lover, Hugh Despenser, was far from savoury. Within five years, Edward was forcibly removed from the throne by his wife and her lover. According to legend he was then bugged to death with a red hot poker. Yet even this dramatic yarn is nothing but myth. In fact he managed to escape and live as a hermit in Italy until his death in the 1340s.

With such a dramatic and yet real story as this, it's been impossible for me to leave Edward II behind. Even George RR Martin has used some of the events in Edward's story as material in *Game Of Thrones*, so compelling was his reign. For me, I couldn't help but follow. After years of research, and a couple of years of hard writing, I have now written my own biography of Edward II, where at least the man, and not just the king, is given centre stage. At last his tale can be freely told against the real evidence that exists, and the story of his life, his passions and yes, his failings too, can be recounted in the most honest way possible. I was delighted when Amberley Publishing felt that too, and so my first ever hardback book, *Edward II The Man: A Doomed Inheritance* was published on 15 November across the UK, and internationally in three months' time. Check it out at Amazon, Waterstones and Foyles. It's compelling stuff.

# “Ending in tears”

I'm afraid it's bad news for all you romantics out there. Apparently, lesbian marriages are going down the pan faster than you can say 'I do'.

And in the face of all those stereotypes - the ones that have gay men as sexual flibbertigibbets and lesbians as the devoted home types who would never leave their pussies, let alone their partners - gay men are faring far better in the matrimonial state.

The Office of National Statistics, who obviously have too much time on their hands (aren't there any unemployed people to count?), have been looking into this matter pretty closely.

In 2016, there were 112 divorces for same-sex couples, with only 25 of those being gay men couples

And what's really worrying is that in 2015 there were only 22 same sex divorces. What went so wrong for us in 2016?..

The Independent (who also seem to have far too much time on their

hands) have worked out that around 11% of lesbian marriages ended in divorce in 2016

By comparison, gay men are laughing - their rate is only four percent. And the pattern for civil partnerships is very similar.

In fairness, 2016 was a bad year for a lot of people - particularly celebrities, who chose to die in their droves. Maybe the moon was out of synch or something (astrology isn't my thing, you may be able to tell), or perhaps there was something in the water.

And, you know, we're new to all this. We only got our mitts on marriage certificates three years ago. Straight people have been going at this marriage thing for years, and they're no better at it. Forty-two percent of marriages overall end in divorce, with the average marriage lasting only 12 years

And not to be too harsh about this, but surely this makes weddings the most phenomenal waste of money. The aver-

age wedding, I'm reliably informed, now costs £27,000, the average honeymoon, £4,000. That's a lot of money I could have bought each girlfriend I've ever had a reliable second hand car for that kind of money, and still had change for a nice city break.

So, the message is clear. Wait until we've got a bit better at it before you tie the knot. Or, if you really have to get married, marry a gay man.



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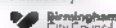
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# ON THE BALL

with  
Steve Ball

## We need to talk about Kevin

Ever since the scandal surrounding Hollywood film producer Harvey Weinstein erupted a few weeks ago, there have been almost daily reports of previously undisclosed accounts of sexual harassment by rich and famous men. One of these is Kevin 'Invade Your Personal' Spacey. Officers from Scotland Yard's child abuse & sexual offences team are investigating 13 allegations against the actor and former Artistic Director of London's Old Vic theatre. One of the allegations has been made by actor Anthony Rapp, who claims that Spacey made sexual advances and lay on top of him at a party in 1985 when Rapp was 14 years old. Spacey says he can't remember his alleged actions, but that if they did hap-

pen he apologises, and that he is coming to terms with his sexuality.

If Spacey's half-baked apology and conflation of his coming out as a gay man with preying on a 14-year-old were meant to defuse the situation, he was wrong. He would have set off fewer fireworks if he'd lit the blue touch paper himself on Bonfire Night. The Twittersphere has been ablaze with people from all backgrounds condemning Spacey for using this unsavoury incident to reveal his homosexuality. His public statement, mixing up the issue of his sexual orientation with accusations of predatory and inappropriate behaviour, plays into the hands of homophobes who claim homosexuality is synonymous

with child abuse.

Peter Tatchell has suggested that the Weinstein and Spacey cases should be a wake-up call to transform the male-dominated workplace culture. There are certainly lessons for us all. We need to encourage and support victims of sexual harassment to report their experience, in order to identify the problem and get it sorted. And in order to seek to reduce sexual harassment in future generations, we should put pressure on the government to teach pupils in schools about consent and abuse issues and the differences between mutual flirting and one-way sexual pressure and pestering.



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# THE VIRAL ROUND-UP

Here's what we've been looking at online...

We all do it - spend hours on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube. Often we're distracted from what we should be doing by cat videos and funny pranks - or by something feelgood that's been shared so much on the net it's officially classed as 'viral'. Well, here are some of Midlands Zone's favourites from the past month!



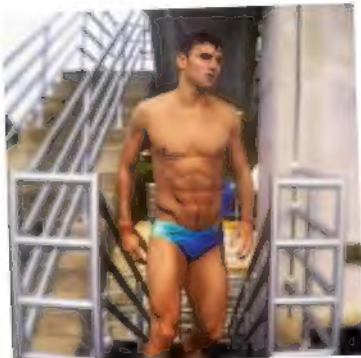
## RUPAW'S DRAG RACE: The Instagram account that dresses cats as drag queens

Here's two of our favourite things combined into one: RuPaul's Drag Race and cats! That's right! Instagram account RuPaw's Drag Race takes your favourite RuPaul stars and painstakingly handcrafts the

finest outfits and costumes to mimic the Queens in a cute, yet hilarious, feline version. Be sure to head over to their Instagram page for even more at [@rupaws\\_drag\\_race](#)!

## CELEB SNAPS!

Our fave celebrity Instagram pics...



We miss the Olympics. Well, we miss Tom Daley in his Speedos more!



It's great to have the cute Sam Smith back in our lives!



Lady Gaga's looking fierce here!

Have you ever seen this **Penis Latte Art** before?



Well if not, why not? We all love coffee - heading to Starbucks for the perfect latte, but this is certainly something you wouldn't see there!

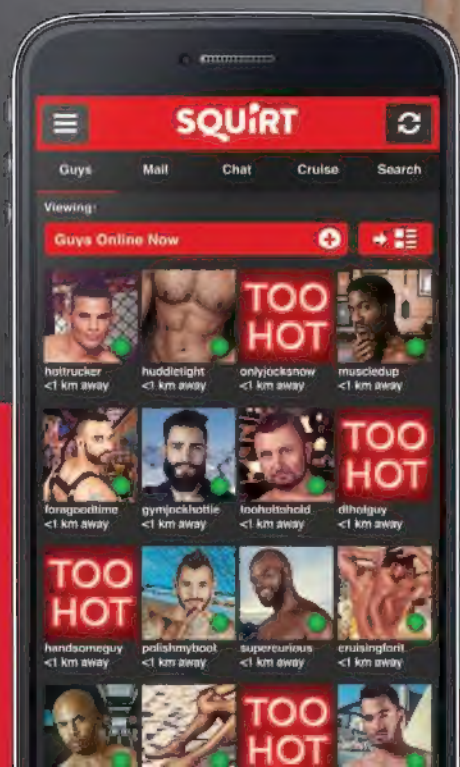
Over on Instagram, user [@dicklatte](#) has been anonymously creating the x-rated art with creamy milk for quite some time now - and to be honest, it's quite an amazing skill!

They come in all shapes, sizes and circumfrances, so there's something for every preference!



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